

# Twelfth Baptist Church

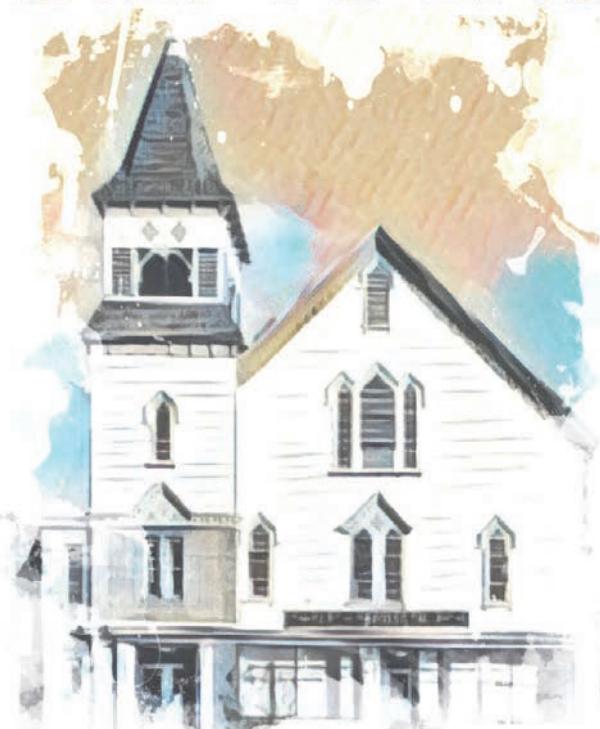
## 185<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Souvenir Booklet

**Friday, October 17, 2025**

Four Points By Sheraton Norwood, MA

### **“BUILT TO LAST”**

**Warren Street  
Roxbury, MA  
(1957-Present)**



**Beacon Hill  
Boston, MA  
(1805-1907)**

**Shawmut Ave.  
Roxbury, MA  
(1907-1954)**



**Rev. Dr. Willie Bodrick II, Senior Pastor | Rev. Jeffrey L. Brown, Associate Pastor  
Rev. Dr. Arthur T. Gerald, Jr., Pastor Emeritus**

**One Sixty Warren Street, Roxbury, Massachusetts - 617.442.7855 - [www.tbcboston.org](http://www.tbcboston.org)**

## DIAMOND SPONSORS

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*The Hoppin Family*

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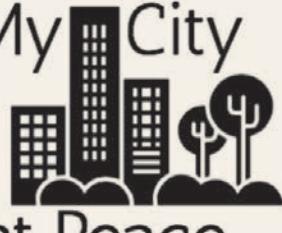
*Redstone Family*  
FOUNDATION

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**HYM**

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My City  
at Peace

The logo consists of a stylized city skyline silhouette with three buildings of varying heights and a small tree to the right, all contained within a circular base. Below the skyline, the words "at Peace" are written in a serif font.

the  
*Waldwin*  
group A circular logo with the letters "twg" in a white sans-serif font, with a small butterfly icon above the "t".

## SILVER SPONSORS

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**N** Northeastern  
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# PROGRAM

Master of Ceremonies	Rev. Jeffrey L. Brown
	Associate Pastor, Twelfth Baptist Church
Opening Prayer	Min. Elizabeth Crockton
	Co-Chair—185 Banquet Committee
Opening Hymn	We've Come This Far by Faith
Statement of Purpose: Brief History and	Rev. Dr. Willie Bodrick, II
Significance of our 220 <sup>th</sup> & 185 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	Pastor Twelfth Baptist Church
Memorial Tribute Sis. Lisa Dix	Rev. Dr. Willie Bodrick, II
Introduction of the Head Table & Dignitaries	Rev. Jeffrey L. Brown
Musical Selections	Twelfth Baptist Church Ensemble
	Jonathan Singleton, Minister of Music
Special Presentations	Mayor Michelle Wu, State Representative Chyna Tyler
	State Senator Liz Miranda, Congresswomen Ayanna Pressley
	U. S. Senator Ed Markey
Blessing of the Food	
Musical Selections	Twelfth Baptist Church Ensemble
Video Presentation—Built to Last	Short Historical Media
	Created and Presented by Marnier Crockton
Special Tribute to Pastor Emeritus Gerald	Pastor Willie Bodrick, II
Congratulatory Remarks	Dr. Noelle Trent (MAAH), Imari Paris Jeffries (EMBRACE Boston), Black Ministerial Alliance, MA Council of Churches, Black Ecumenical Council of MA
Video Presentation	Oral History Project Presented by TBC Zoomers & A/V Ministry
Liturgical Dance	Jay'dha Rackard, N/A Dance Troupe and OrigInation Cultural Arts Center
Introduction of the Guest Speaker	Pastor Willie Bodrick, II
Musical Selection	Instrumental Ensemble
Keynote Message	Rev. Dr. Charles E. Goodman, Jr.
Recognition of Long-Standing Members	Pastor Willie Bodrick, II
A Word of Thanks & Final Call to Action	Pastor Willie Bodrick, II
Closing Hymn	Great Is Thy Faithfulness
Benediction/Closing Prayer	Pastor Willie Bodrick, II

# PREFACE

## BUILT TO LAST: We've Come This Far By Faith

Twelfth Baptist Church stands on the enduring foundation of a dual legacy—tracing its spiritual and congregational roots to 1805.

This year marks the 220th Anniversary of the founding of the First African Baptist Church (1805) and the 185th Anniversary of the establishment of Twelfth Baptist Church (1840), a congregation born out of the fires of faith and freedom, and built by a people whose resilience became their witness.

For 185 years, Twelfth Baptist Church has stood as a living monument to God's sustaining power and our community's enduring spirit.

Born in resistance and rooted in hope, this church has weathered seasons of trial and triumph, yet never lost its song, its mission, or its faith.

**Through slavery and segregation,  
Through civil rights and social change,  
Through pandemic and progress,**

We have held fast to the truth that what God builds cannot be broken.

Twelfth Baptist Church is more than a building; it is a movement of faith, hope, and love.

It is a church that has raised generations of disciples, scholars, and servant leaders.

It has been a sanctuary for the weary, a platform for the prophetic, and a home for those seeking the transforming power of Jesus Christ.

We celebrate this year not merely as a milestone,

But as a declaration:

**We are still here!  
Still believing.  
Still building.  
Still becoming.**

For we are the evidence that God's church is indeed

**BUILT TO LAST.**

***Love, Light, Life, and Liberation***

Because when God builds it, it's

**Built to Last.**

**"Upon this rock I will build my church,  
and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."**

**– Matthew 16:18**

As you turn the pages of this celebration, you will encounter  
the story of a people grounded in grace and powered by perseverance.

You will see how God's hand has guided us through generations,

how God's Word has sustained us through uncertainty,

and how God's Spirit continues to breathe new life into this ministry.

This is not just our history — it is our testimony.

Our faith has been tested, but never defeated.

Our witness has been challenged, but never silenced.

And our purpose remains unchanged —

to preach the Gospel, to do justice,

and to love God's people in word and in deed.

We stand today because generations before us

refused to give up on God —

and because God never gave up on us.

The same Spirit that sustained our ancestors

still strengthens us now,

calling us to build forward

with courage, creativity, and conviction.

For 220 years from our founding and 185 years as Twelfth Baptist Church,  
we have stood upon the Solid Rock —

and we will keep standing upon

***Love, Light, Life, and Liberation***

Because when God builds it, it's

**Built to Last.**



**Beacon Hill, Boston  
(1805-1907)**



**Shawmut Ave., Roxbury  
(1907-1954)**



**Warren Street, Roxbury  
(1957-Present)**

## **GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS**

Thomas O. Chisholm

### Verse 1

Great is thy faithfulness, O God, my Father;  
There is no shadow of turning with thee.  
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
As thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

#### Refrain:

Great is thy faithfulness,  
Great is thy faithfulness,  
Morning by morning new mercies I see.  
All I have needed thy hand hast provided;  
Great is thy faithfulness,  
Lord unto me.

### Verse 2

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. [Refrain]

### Verse 3

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine and ten thousand beside. [Refrain]

## **WE'VE COME THIS FAR BY FAITH**

Music & Lyrics: Albert Goodson

### Chorus

We have come this far by faith,  
Leaning on the Lord,  
Trusting in His holy Word,  
He's never failed us --yet.  
Singin' oh, oh, oh, oh, oh, oh oh can't turn a-round,  
We've come this far by faith.



*Congratulations  
Twelfth Baptist Church*

## CELEBRATING 185 YEARS OF FAITH AND 220 YEARS OF LEGACY

*"To God be the glory, great things He has done"*

With grateful hearts, we honor God for 185 years of Twelfth Baptist Church and 220 years since the First African Baptist Church - a legacy of faith, freedom and fellowship. May we continue to build upon the foundation laid by our ancestors and shine as a beacon of hope for future generations.

With love and gratitude,

*Rev. Dr. Willie Bodrick, II, J.D., M.Div., Senior Pastor  
First Lady Dr. Devin Cromartie Bodrick, M.D., M.P.H.  
Willie Bodrick, III*



**TWELFTH**  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
Boston, MA | Org. 1805 | Est. 1840

# LETTER FROM THE FIRST FAMILY

Rev. Dr. Willie Bodrick, II, J.D., M.Div., Senior Pastor, First Lady Dr. Devin Cromartie Bodrick and Willie Bodrick, III. Twelfth Baptist Church — 2025

## Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow!

This year, we celebrate 220 years since the founding of the First African Baptist Church (1805) and 185 years since the establishment of Twelfth Baptist Church (1840), a spiritual lineage born out of faith and freedom, sustained by a people whose courage and conviction became their testimony. We carry the legacy of those whose unwavering resilience still lights the path of freedom and faith today.

We stand today as heirs of a sacred story — one written by those who believed that faith could overcome bondage, that hope could outlast hardship, and that love could rebuild what hate sought to destroy. From Revs. Thomas Paul, George Black, Leonard Grimes, George Washington Williams, Dr. Matthew A. N. Shaw, and Rev. Dr. Michael E. Haynes, to my immediate predecessor, Rev. Dr. Arthur T. Gerald, Jr., each leader built faithfully upon a foundation laid by God Himself.

As we celebrate this anniversary, our theme, “Built to Last,” reminds us that we are part of something far greater than ourselves. Psalm 127:1 declares:

*“Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain that build it;  
unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.”*

Indeed, God has been the Builder and Keeper of this house. For 185 years, Twelfth Baptist Church has weathered the storms of history and remained a beacon of faith, freedom, and justice — because it was built on the unshakable foundation of Jesus Christ.

As First Lady and I reflect on these four years of senior pastoral leadership, partnership, and purpose, and my thirteen years in ministry at Twelfth Baptist Church, we are overwhelmed by the grace of God and the faithfulness of this congregation. We have grown together, worshiped together, and worked together to extend the reach of Christ’s love in our community. In every trial and triumph, God has proven Himself faithful.

At the heart of all we do is our mission — to be a Church of Love, Light, Life, and Liberation:

- Love that welcomes, heals, and binds us together.
- Light that shines truth into dark places and bears witness to Christ.
- Life that flows abundantly through worship, fellowship, and service.
- Liberation that breaks chains, uplifts voices, and advances justice in the spirit of our ancestors.

To my beloved Twelfth Baptist family, thank you for your steadfastness, your prayers, and your partnership in the Gospel. You are living witnesses that the Church is not simply a building of brick and stone — it is a body built by faith, sustained by grace, and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

As we look to the future, we press forward in the spirit of Philippians 3:14:

*“I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”*

We will continue to build — with faith as our foundation, love as our mortar, and hope as our blueprint — trusting that what God builds truly lasts.

May the Lord continue to bless Twelfth Baptist Church, that generations yet unborn may say, “This is the house that the Lord built,” and we are Built to Last.

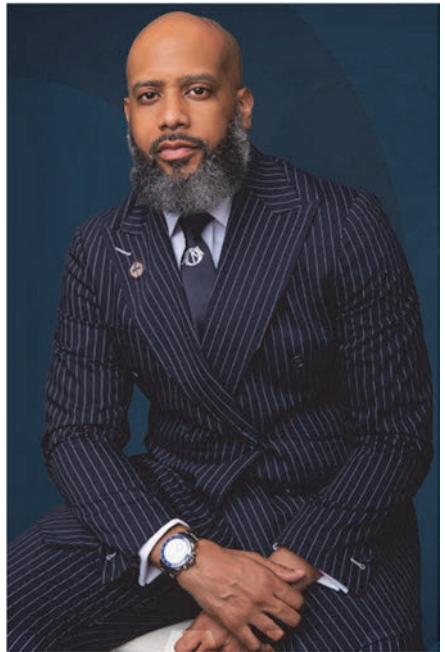
With deep love and gratitude from our family to yours,  
Rev. Dr. Willie Bodrick, II J.D., M.Div., Senior Pastor,  
First Lady Dr. Devin Cromartie Bodrick, and Willie Bodrick, III.  
Twelfth Baptist Church — 2025

## OUR GUEST SPEAKER

### Reverend Dr. Charles E. Goodman, Jr.

The Reverend Dr. Charles E. Goodman, Jr. celebrates eighteen years as the Senior Pastor and Teacher of the historic Tabernacle Baptist Church of Augusta, Georgia. Under his visionary leadership, the church has grown into “one church in multiple locations,” serving more than 15,000 partners, including the TAB Global audience through virtual and weekly in-person services. Before his tenure at Tabernacle, Dr. Goodman faithfully served as pastor of Pleasant View Missionary Baptist Church in Salem, Alabama, for three and a half years.

A scholar and lifelong learner, Dr. Goodman holds a Bachelor of Arts degree with honors from Wake Forest University in Winston Salem, North Carolina. He earned his Master of Divinity degree from Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, and a Doctor of Ministry from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C. Further pursuing academic excellence, he completed a Master of Management with a concentration in Organizational Leadership at Cambridge College and participated in Yale University’s Clergy Scholars Program.



In 2020, Rev. Dr. Goodman achieved an Executive Coaching Certification in Diversity through Coach Diversity and Howard University Business School collaboration. In 2023, he successfully defended his doctoral research on The Black Church and Leadership in Times of Crisis, earning a Ph.D. in Leadership from Anderson University in Anderson, South Carolina. That same year, he was selected as a Preaching Exemplar in the inaugural cohort for the Compelling Preaching Initiative at Christian Theological Seminary, under the leadership of Dr. Frank Thomas. This initiative seeks to advance the sacred tradition of African American preaching through scholarship and mentorship. In the summer of 2024, Rev. Dr. Goodman was elected Assistant Secretary for the prestigious Hampton University Ministers’ and Choir Guild Conference.

He serves on numerous community boards and contributes as an adjunct professor and mentor of various institutions of higher learning. A respected thought leader, he regularly publishes content on ministry methodologies and contemporary preaching. His ministry journey has taken him beyond the pulpit; he has preached and studied in the Holy Land, deepening his connection to the Scripture and his commitment to service.

He has authored four books; You Can’t Run from Purpose, Road to Recovery, The Flip Side of Favor, and It’s Complicated.

A native of Greensboro, North Carolina, Rev. Dr. Goodman credits his grandparents, Deacon Ernest, and Mrs. Charlotte Swann, for instilling in him a foundation of faith and service. Affectionately known as “PG” by his congregation he is deeply respected as a servant-leader in his community.

Outside of ministry, Dr. Goodman is an avid sports enthusiast and devoted Philadelphia Eagles fan. He is a proud member of Omega Psi Phi and Sigma Pi Phi fraternities .

Amazed by God’s grace and love, Dr. Charles E. Goodman, Jr., is a highly sought-after preacher, speaker, revivalist and lecturer. He inspires audiences worldwide with his practical and relatable approach to proclaiming the Word of God, empowering and encouraging believers to live out their faith with purpose and passion.

**“Created to Worship, Called to Preach, Chosen to Lead”**

# ANNIVERSARY PLANNING COMMITTEE

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Pastor Willie Bodrick, II

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## **Music Ministry Committee**

Bro. Jonathan Singleton, Minister Isaiah Briggs

## **THANK YOU**

*To our dedicated 185th Anniversary Celebration Committee, we extend our deepest gratitude. Your exceptional hard work, invaluable contributions, and meticulous planning were the foundation of this event's success. Your dedication and execution brought our vision to life.*

*This celebration would not have been possible without you.*

## **Media Credits**

Public Address System: 12th Note Productions, Felix Mwangi

Photo Booth and Photography: Special Effects Photography, James Boykins & Jamil Boykins

Photography: Visions Inn Media, Denise Burton

Video Cameras and Recording: Senavision, Carlos De Sena

# HISTORY OF TWELFTH BAPTIST CHURCH (1805–2025)

## ***“Built To Last”***

*Dedicated to the ancestors and saints of Twelfth Baptist Church, whose faith built this house of freedom.*

### **I. A Church Born in Freedom (1805–1838)**

The story of Twelfth Baptist Church begins not as a monument but as a movement of faith. Twelfth Baptist Church stands on the enduring foundation of a dual legacy—tracing its spiritual and congregational roots to 1805 with the founding of the First African Baptist Church. In 1805, in the shadow of slavery and racial exclusion, a group of free Black believers led by Rev. Thomas Paul, Scipio Dalton, and Cato Gardner organized the First African Baptist Church of Boston (*Levesque, Black Boston*, pp. 318–322). They sought to worship without restraint, to educate their children, and to embody the conviction that *the Spirit of the Lord is freedom* (2 Corinthians 3:17).

Their worship began in a modest meeting hall, but their vision soon outgrew it. On December 6, 1806, the congregation dedicated the African Meeting House on Smith Court — the first Black church building in America, built largely by the hands and offerings of Black Bostonians (*Levesque*, pp. 320–321).

The Meeting House quickly became more than a sanctuary; it was the spiritual, educational, and political heart of Boston’s free Black community. The church hosted early schools for Black children and gatherings of abolitionist leaders. In 1832, it was there that William Lloyd Garrison founded the New England Anti-Slavery Society, confirming that this church — Boston’s first Black Baptist congregation — was both a house of worship and a citadel of freedom.

### **II. The Schism and the Continuation of the First African Baptist Church (1838–1915)**

*(with reference to George A. Levesque, *Black Boston: African American Life and Culture in Urban America, 1750–1860*, pp. 353–357)*

The final years of the 1830s were defining for the First African Baptist Church on Beacon Hill. Under Rev. George H. Black, ordained in November 1838, the congregation experienced remarkable growth — from 89 to 158 members in just three years — and renewed energy for social reform.

Abolitionism had evolved from moral sentiment into a spiritual imperative. Rev. Black became the leading voice of this conviction, teaching that the Gospel demanded not only salvation but liberation — that faith and freedom were inseparable. To reflect this new vision, he led the church to adopt a new name: the First Independent Baptist Church of People of Color of Boston. In his 1838 letter to the Boston Baptist Association, he explained that the term *African* was “ill applied to a church composed of American citizens.” It was both a theological and civic declaration — affirming that Black believers were not merely descendants of a continent but rightful citizens shaping the conscience of a nation.

By 1840, differences had hardened. Some members favored public abolitionist engagement; others feared its consequences. When reconciliation proved impossible, Rev. Black and approximately forty members — committed to the liberationist cause — withdrew and began worshiping in a loft beside the old Smith Court meetinghouse. Their departure was not an abandonment of the church; it was an affirmation of its spirit. They believed, rightly, that the church was the people, not the property, and that the soul of the African Baptist Church resided in those who carried its covenant forward.

Both groups claimed authenticity, and the Boston Baptist Association, overwhelmed by rival appeals, declined to decide which body was the “true” church. Yet history has made that determination. The congregation that followed Rev. George Black — the people who preserved the covenant, membership, and mission of the original church — became the living continuation of Boston’s first Black Baptist congregation.

In the years that followed, Boston’s streets pulsed with abolitionist energy. The George Latimer case of 1842, in which a fugitive was seized under the Fugitive Slave Law, galvanized the Black community and deepened the reformers’ resolve. In that crucible, the new congregation found its enduring identity. When Rev. Leonard A. Grimes became pastor in 1848, the Boston Baptist Association formally recognized the body as the Twelfth Baptist Church.

### **III. The Grimes Era and the Fugitive Slave Church (1848–1874)**

Rev. Leonard Andrew Grimes played a pivotal role as one of the principal agents of the Underground Railroad. Born of free African-American parents in Leesburg, Virginia 1815, he worked as a Hackman. He purchased several horses and carriages to provide transportation for hire and clandestinely used his business to transport fugitive slaves to the Washington, DC area. In 1839, Grimes was arrested, convicted, assessed a \$100 fine, and served two years in prison for assisting a woman named Patty and her six children escape from slavery in Loudoun County, Virginia. (*Loudoun Museum. (n.d.). The Leonard Grimes Trial (1840), Loudoun County, Virginia.* pp. 36–37). *Loudoun History / Loudoun County library*)

In November 1848, he was ordained as the first pastor of Twelfth Baptist Church, a position he held for 25 years until his death in 1873. Grimes was a prominent figure in the national church community, serving as president of the American Baptist Missionary Convention and the Consolidated Baptist Conventions for several years. He was instrumental in pushing these organizations to oppose slavery, advocating for no fellowship with slave-holding ministries.

His commitment to the abolitionist cause extended beyond his pastoral duties. Grimes actively opposed the Fugitive Slave Act, a law that allowed slave owners, with the assistance of federal agents and the court, to arrest escaped slaves and return them to slavery in the South. Grimes was actively involved in significant fugitive slave cases, including those of Shadrach Minkins, Thomas Sims, and Anthony Burns. In the case of Anthony Burns, an escaped slave who became a member of Grimes’s church in 1854, Grimes led efforts to secure his freedom after Burns was arrested under the Fugitive Slave Act. Although the legal battle was lost, Grimes raised sufficient funds to purchase Burns’s freedom, highlighting his unwavering dedication to justice.

Rev. Grimes transformed the church into what became known as “*The Fugitive Slave Church*.” It was a station on the Underground Railroad, a moral force for abolition, and a beacon of faith that declared the Gospel’s power to make all people free. Under **Rev. Leonard A. Grimes**, Twelfth Baptist became the epicenter of abolitionist Christianity. Twelfth Baptist Church served as a rallying point for activists, scholars, and preachers who believed that faith without justice was empty.

During the Civil War, Grimes was a key advocate for the enlistment of African Americans in the Union Army. Grimes also believed that blacks should be allowed to bear arms in the Civil War. Grimes appealed directly to the Governor of Massachusetts, and as a result of his efforts, blacks earned the right to bear arms and join the Civil War. He played a significant role in recruiting soldiers for the *54th Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry*, one of the first African-American regiments in the Civil War, encouraging members of his congregation and the broader community to join the fight for freedom. Grimes was even invited to serve as the regiment’s chaplain, but he declined, because he was committed to his duties at Twelfth Baptist Church.

Grimes’s personal life was marked by his marriage to Octavia Grimes, who was a pillar of strength in his life and ministry. Together, they had four children: Emma, John, Leonard, and Julia. Octavia was deeply involved in church initiatives, supporting her husband’s abolitionist work and contributing to the church’s efforts in aiding the oppressed.

When he passed on March 14, **1873**, Twelfth Baptist Church was the largest church in the Boston Baptist Association, with more than 700 members and an enduring reputation for faith in action.

#### **IV. Reconstruction and Renaissance (1874–1899)**

Rev. George Washington Williams, a graduate of Newton Theological Seminary, succeeded Grimes in 1874. A pioneering historian and legislator, Williams became the leader of the flock on April 4, 1874, and was installed as the Second Ordained Pastor on June 24, 1874. Williams served Twelfth Baptist Church from 1874 to 1876.

During his tenure as pastor at TBC, Williams researched and wrote the first detailed history of the church, *The History of the Twelfth Baptist Church. Boston, Mass. 1840-1874*, an 80-page history of the church documenting its role as a sanctuary for escaped slaves and its contributions to the abolitionist movement.

Williams also authored *The History of the Negro Race in America*, the first major work of Black American historiography, and *A History of Negro Troops in the War of Rebellion* and *The History of the Negro Race in America, 1619- 1880*, the first major work of Black American historiography. His tenure reflected Twelfth Baptist’s intellectual and moral leadership in Reconstruction America (Levesque, pp. 377–379).

From 1876 to 1899, several pastors continued the ministry — Revs. William C. Dennis, L.F. Walden, Robert N. Fairfax, H.H. Harris, J. Allen Kirk, A.W. Adams, and Dr. Johnson W. Hill — ensuring that the church's legacy of faith and scholarship endured.

#### **V. Our Sister Descendant From Beacon Hill (1840 - 1915)**

When Rev. George Black and a portion of the congregation withdrew in 1840 to continue the mission of the First African Baptist Church and became the Twelfth Baptist Church, another group remained connected to the Beacon Hill property. Both bodies initially claimed to be the legitimate continuation of the original church. The Beacon Hill group, which maintained the meetinghouse property, would later become known as St. Paul's Baptist Church.

In 1892, destiny prepared another chapter: 120 members withdrew from Twelfth Baptist Church to establish Calvary Baptist Church in the South End.

Then, on the first Sunday in March 1915, a powerful act of unity took place. The congregations of Calvary Baptist Church, Morning Star Baptist Church (not to be confused with the congregation founded in 1965, currently on Blue Hill Avenue in Mattapan), and St. Paul's Baptist Church marched together as one body to St. Paul's. In a moving ceremony of faith and fellowship, they merged to form Peoples Baptist Church of Boston — a new institution that reflected the continued growth and vitality of the Black Baptist witness in the city.

People's Baptist Church, our sister congregation, represents an important part of the Black church story in Boston and likewise traces its spiritual ancestry to the church on Beacon Hill. Twelfth Baptist Church, however, continues the direct and unbroken line of people, mission, and mantle of the First African Baptist Church through the legacy of Rev. George Black — ensuring that the Gospel of freedom remains not only a memory, but a movement.

#### **VI. The Shaw Era: Movement and Migration (1899–1924)**

**Rev. Dr. Matthew A.N. Shaw, M.D.**, accepted the call to lead Twelfth Baptist Church on November 12, 1899, as the 10th pastor. He entered his pastoral ministry during a time when the church faced a significant decline in church membership.

Rev. Dr. Shaw was born in Bath, Jamaica, and was educated at Calabar College in Kingston. His scholarly aptitude led him to further studies in the United States: he attended Boston University School of Medicine and also studied at Tufts College (presumably for additional academic work) before opening a medical practice in Boston, even while serving as a pastor. The story is told that at one point, due to the racism at Boston City Hospital, he had his doctor's office in the basement of the church. Reverend Dr. Shaw was a firm advocate of the rights of his race. His masterly thought and convincing presentations won laurels for innumerable causes. Reverend Dr. Shaw was the National President of the Equal Rights League of America, a cause to which he had given generously of his time and means.

In 1906, as Boston's Black community shifted from Beacon Hill to Roxbury, Rev. Dr. Shaw led Twelfth Baptist Church to move to Lower Roxbury, and the Twelfth Baptist Church membership acquired the property, Bos-

ton Tabernacle at the corner of Shawmut Avenue and Madison Street (now Melnea Cass Blvd) in 1905 and dedicated the building on November 11, 1906.

Rev. Dr. Shaw expressed his dedication and gratitude at the ceremony... "For all the success which has attended me, I thank God, and bless the people who in the rank and file have loved me, trusted me, and heroically followed me. May God give me grace, power, and opportunity to serve them in the future better than I have done in the past. During the whole severe struggle which ended in the glorious victory we are now about to celebrate, our members stood by us and gave us loyal support." Not only did Reverend Shaw's vision and leadership save the church, but its membership grew exponentially as a result of his powerful ability to be forward-thinking.

Known as one of the best orators in the country, Rev. Dr. Shaw's leadership allows the church to flourish as a center for faith and culture, hosting artists like Marian Anderson, who gave her first Boston recital within its walls.

Rev. Dr. Shaw passed away on Wednesday night, September 19, 1923, at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital. Although his health had declined, Dr. Shaw had remained active in ministry until the end, having preached at the church the Sunday before his passing. At the end of his tenure, Twelfth Baptist Church was arguably the largest black congregation in the city of Boston.

## **VII. The Hester Era: Education, Service, and Strength (1924–1964)**

In 1924, Rev. Dr. William Hunter Hester accepted the call to lead the historic Twelfth Baptist Church in July of 1924. As the 11th pastor, he was a gentleman, scholar, advisor, and friend who won the admiration of a wide circle of followers.

A native of Oxford, North Carolina, Reverend Dr. Hester was born on August 19, 1888 to Lee and Emma Hester. He graduated from the Mary Potter School and the North Carolina College for Negroes (now North Carolina Central University). When he and his wife, Beulah H. Shepherd, relocated to Boston, Reverend Dr. Hester pursued graduate studies at Boston University School of Theology and the Andover Newton Theological School.

As a true shepherd, Reverend Dr. Hester endeavored to comfort the bereaved, to encourage the sick, and to support the needy. In New England, he was regarded as one of the most distinguished and princely leaders of the Christian faith. For his faithful service to so many, Reverend Dr. Hester was unofficially regarded as the "Dean of Boston's Clergy". He was a pivotal leader in the denomination services as the President of the Negro Baptist Ministries Conference of Boston and was an active member of the Ordination Council, the Trustee Board of Palmer Memorial Institute, the Executive Board of the New England Baptist Convention and the Foreign Mission Board of the National Baptist Convention Incorporated.

On May 28, 1945, Reverend Hester was granted an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Divinity from Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina. A year later, he published the second history book for Twelfth Baptist Church, *One Hundred and Five Years by Faith: A History of Twelfth Baptist Church, Boston, MA.*

He and his wife, Beulah Shephard Hester, combined scholarship and service, with Beulah Hester's work at the Robert Gould Shaw House, leaving an indelible mark on Boston's social work landscape. Dr. Hester guided the congregation through the Great Depression, World War II, and the Civil Rights Movement.

Dr. Hester, supported by his wife Beulah Shephard Hester, fostered Christian education, civic engagement, and youth leadership. It was under Dr. Hester's ministry that Rev. Michael E. Haynes joined as Minister to Youth in 1951. Haynes' leadership helped dozens of young African Americans pursue higher education and civic service.

During this period, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., while a doctoral student at Boston University, frequently served in ministry and preached at Twelfth Baptist Church. His friendship with Dr. and Mrs. Hester — and later with Rev. Haynes — deepened the church's legacy as a spiritual home for justice and prophetic ministry. Dr. Hester's death in 1964 ended the longest continuous pastorate in the church's history to this point, serving 40 years as pastor.

### **VIII. The Haynes Era: Faith in Action (1965–2004)**

Upon Dr. Hester's passing in 1964, Rev. Dr. Michael E. Haynes — a state legislator and social reformer — was called to lead Twelfth Baptist Church. Installed in 1965, Rev. Haynes guided the church through the turbulence of the civil rights era with steady vision. Rev. Dr. Michael E. Haynes was installed as pastor in 1965 during the church's 125th Anniversary.

A proud graduate of Boston English High School (Class of 1944), Rev. Haynes earned his Bachelor of Arts in Theology from the New England School of Theology in 1949 and later completed graduate studies in Mission and Clinical Services at Shelton College in New York. He pursued further study at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and was later awarded multiple honorary doctorates, including the Doctor of Laws, Doctor of Divinity, and Doctor of Humanities.

Rev. Haynes' ministry began early at Twelfth Baptist Church, where he served as Youth Minister in 1951 before rising to Associate Minister. On October 24, 1964, he was installed as the Senior Pastor, a role he faithfully held for 40 years until his retirement in 2004. Under his leadership, Twelfth Baptist grew spiritually and institutionally: the church revised its constitution and bylaws, established a food bank, pre-school, and housing initiatives, and acquired properties such as the Martin Luther King Jr. House and the Second African Meeting House. He also founded the SAMH Corporation and oversaw the creation of SAMH Corporation Apartments, advancing the church's mission in both ministry and community development, which still exist to this day.

A trailblazer, Rev. Haynes recorded a legacy of "firsts." He was the first Black person invited to serve on the Berkshire Christian College Board, the first to address the Evangelistic Association and the New England An-

nual Conference, and the only Black American elected as a full delegate to the Lausanne Committee on World Evangelization. He was also a featured keynote speaker before Congress in 1986 and was honored as the American Baptist Urban Pastor of the Year in 1987.

His influence extended well beyond the pulpit. From 1965 to 1968, Rev. Haynes represented Roxbury in the Massachusetts House of Representatives, where he advocated for justice and equity. He later served on the Massachusetts State Parole Board by appointment of Governor Francis Sargent, and was a member of the Boston Mayor's Committee on Violence and the Attorney General's Advisory Committee on Drug Addiction. Deeply engaged in the Civil Rights Movement, he worked alongside Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in planning the historic 1965 march from Roxbury to Boston Common, which called for school desegregation.

Rev. Haynes was also a visionary thinker. In 2006, he proposed that Northeastern University create a project to preserve the history of Boston's Black community, which led to the founding of the Lower Roxbury Black History Project. His lifelong commitment to education and young people was so profound that Roxbury's **Haynes Early Education Center** was named in his honor.

A statesman, pastor, and civic leader, he bridged pulpit and policy, serving as both **State Representative** and prophetic voice for justice. Under his leadership, the church became a center for **urban ministry, education, housing advocacy, and social action**. Rev. Haynes' influence reached across Boston's political and moral landscape, shaping generations of clergy and civic leaders. He remained pastor until 2004, leaving a legacy of faith, activism, and vision that continues to define Twelfth Baptist Church today. Rev. Dr. Haynes ended his tenure, following the tradition of his predecessor, with the longest continuous pastorate in the church's history to date, serving 40 years as pastor.

## **IX. The Gerald Era: Community Engagement and Global Mission (2005–2020)**

Following Rev. Haynes' long and transformative tenure, Rev. Dr. Arthur T. Gerald, Jr. assumed the pastoral leadership of Twelfth Baptist Church. His era marked a renewed emphasis on community engagement, intergenerational outreach, and global mission.

A product of the Boston Public Schools, Rev. Gerald attended Timilty Junior High School and graduated from The English High School. As a youth, he played basketball at the Norfolk House for the "Exquisites" with life-long friends Al Holland and Lenny Cox. That program, led by Rev. Michael E. Haynes and Clarence "Jeep" Jones, not only gave young Black boys a sense of belonging but also broadened their horizons, introducing them to historically Black colleges through organized trips. These formative experiences, combined with the mentorship of men like Haynes and Jones, deeply shaped Rev. Gerald's vision for ministry and education.

On January 30, 1975, Rev. Gerald was licensed to preach the Gospel by the American Baptist Churches. Under the pastorate of Rev. Michael E. Haynes at Twelfth Baptist Church, he was ordained on November 11, 1976, alongside his close colleagues Rev. VaCountess Johnson and Rev. Bruce H. Wall.

Within Twelfth Baptist Church, Rev. Gerald faithfully served in multiple capacities: Minister to College & Young Adults, Chair of the Budget, Pre-School Board, African American History, Personnel, and Nominating Committees. He also served as Treasurer of the Mission Ministry, Chair of the Christian Education Ministry, and as a member of the SAMH Corporation.

Beyond the church, Rev. Gerald built a distinguished career in academia. For 38 years, he served at Salem State College (now Salem State University), retiring as Associate Dean of Academic and Cultural Affairs. His expertise in finance and budgeting became invaluable to both the university and his ministry, particularly in his leadership of Twelfth Baptist's Budget and Nominating Ministries. In recognition of his contributions, Salem State established an Endowment Scholarship in his name in 2004, and in 2012, the university awarded him an honorary Doctorate.

As pastor, Rev. Dr. Gerald committed himself to leading Twelfth Baptist into a future of Purpose, Power, Praise, and Prayer. His vision has always been for a church intimately connected to its community, ministering beyond its walls, and instilling hope in a new generation of young people—just as mentors once instilled hope in him.

After faithfully serving for more than 15 years of pastoral leadership, five years as interim pastor, and ten years as Senior Pastor. Rev. Dr. Gerald retired from the pulpit of Twelfth Baptist Church on December 31, 2020, leaving behind a legacy of faithful leadership and spiritual devotion.

Rev. Gerald worked to strengthen the church's neighborhood presence through mentorship programs, food and clothing ministries, youth development, and partnerships with local schools and nonprofits. He championed a theology of action — that the Gospel must not only be preached from the pulpit but embodied in the streets of Roxbury and beyond.

Under his guidance, Twelfth Baptist deepened its ties with civic and interfaith partners, revitalized its worship and music ministry, and sustained the church's identity as a "beacon of hope" amid the changing dynamics of urban Boston.

The Gerald years continued the thread of social faith woven through Twelfth Baptist's DNA — balancing historic preservation with practical compassion and preparing the congregation for a new era of spiritual and organizational renewal.

## **X. The Bodrick Era: Restoration and Renewal (2021–2025)**

In 2020, amid a global pandemic and a national reckoning on race, Rev. Dr. Willie Bodrick II, J.D., M.Div. was elected Pastor of Twelfth Baptist Church. Rev. Bodrick took the reins as Senior Pastor on January 1, 2021. He brought new energy and vision to a historic mantle.

Prior to being Senior Pastor, Rev. Bodrick served on the ministerial staff for the previous nine years as Youth and Young Adult Minister, Young Adult and College Minister, Assistant Pastor, and eventually the Associate

Pastor. He also served as the Director of the Afterschool Program and Summer Enrichment Program, successfully managing both programs and maintaining student and family engagement. Rev. Bodrick also serves as the Vice President of the SAMH Corporation, overseeing the church's housing ministry, thrift shop, youth ministry, and afterschool and summer enrichment programs.

As COVID-19 devastated communities across the nation, Pastor Bodrick was vested with the task of leading the congregation through the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020, which required various operational and fiscal implementations, and a manifold of executive decisions that enabled the church to fully function on various online platforms, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, Zoom, Tithe.ly, and PayPal. With God on our side, we were able to continue our ministries and services, as well as increase their viewership and engagement to over a thousand weekly viewers from across the country and the world.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Rev. Bodrick and TBC also led vaccine education efforts, donated more than \$375,000 to community members and organizations. Rev. Bodrick led Twelfth Baptist in transforming challenge into ministry. In partnership with Boston Medical Center (BMC), the church established a community-based vaccination clinic in Shaw and Hester Hall. This initiative vaccinated over 2,500 people and provided critical access to vaccines for residents of Roxbury and surrounding neighborhoods — many of whom faced barriers to healthcare. The clinic became a model of faith-driven public health, reflecting Twelfth Baptist's enduring mission: to serve both the body and the soul. Rev. Bodrick also brought in a \$1 Million gift from King Boston (now Embrace Boston), the largest gift ever made to the Twelfth Baptist Church.

Rev. Dr. Bodrick was born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia, and is the eldest son (Brothers: Trustee Chair Winston "Skip" Bodrick and Weldon T. Bodrick) of Rev. Willie Bodrick and Anna Bodrick. Pastor Bodrick is a proud product of Atlanta Public Schools.

Rev. Dr. Bodrick holds a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree from Georgetown University, a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree from Harvard Divinity School, and a Juris Doctor (J.D.) degree from Northeastern University School of Law. In May 2022, Rev. Bodrick received an honorary Doctorate of Community Service from Northeastern University.

Concurrently, Rev. Bodrick is the President and CEO of The American City Coalition (TACC). He brings extensive executive leadership and a personal and professional commitment to social and economic justice in the Roxbury community. Pastor Bodrick serves on many boards, including a member of the Board of Trustees of Boston Medical Center, the YMCA of Greater Boston, and the Governor's Advisory Council for Black Empowerment. Rev. Bodrick has received numerous awards and honors, including 2025 Boston Business Journal Power 50, 2024 Martin L. King, Jr. International Chapel College of Ministers and Laity Board of Preachers Inductee, and 2023 Boston Magazine 150 Most Influential Bostonians.

Rev. Bodrick's leadership has reenergized the church's engagement in affordable housing, social advocacy, digital ministry, and preserving our church history, while advancing a renewed vision for faith, freedom, and wholeness.

In 2025, the church embarked on a major Restoration and Renewal Project, restoring its historic edifice in Roxbury while revitalizing its spiritual, cultural, and social mission. This restoration symbolizes not only the preservation of a building but the renewal of a calling, ensuring that the church remains a beacon for future generations.

Rev. Bodrick, along with his wife, First Lady Dr. Devin Cromartie Bodrick, and their son, Willie Bodrick, III, continue to lead Twelfth Baptist Church as we stand upon the promise of God.

## XI. The Church That Freedom Built (Conclusion)

For 220 years, Twelfth Baptist Church has stood as a living witness that faith and freedom walk together. From Thomas Paul's vision in 1805 to the restoration of 2025, it has been a sanctuary for the oppressed, a platform for the prophetic, and a community of believers who refuse to separate the Gospel from justice.

For 220 years, from Beacon Hill to Roxbury, Twelfth Baptist Church has stood as a testament to the power of faith in freedom. Founded by the descendants of enslaved people, sustained by abolitionists, and carried forward by generations of believers, it remains a beacon of hope for Boston and the world.

Today, as it celebrates 185 years as Twelfth Baptist Church, the congregation continues to live its founding creed — that the church of Jesus Christ must be a place where faith empowers freedom, where love fuels justice, and where history lives in the hearts of the faithful.

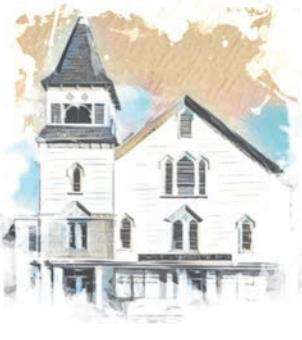
*We are heirs of a sacred legacy — a church born in struggle, sustained by faith, and still moving in the Spirit. As we celebrate 220 years of the First African Baptist Church and 185 years as Twelfth Baptist Church, we recommit ourselves to the Gospel that liberates and the work that endures. The same God who built this house will continue to guide us — until faith, freedom, and love are one.*



**Beacon Hill, Boston  
(1805-1907)**



**Shawmut Ave. Roxbury  
(1907-1954)**



**Warren Street, Roxbury  
(1957-Present)**

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# TBC MINISTERIAL TEAM YEAR 185

*Our Vision is to Liberate all  
people with the Love of God  
through Jesus Christ!*



Rev. Jeffrey L. Brown, Associate Pastor | Minister Naomi Crumb  
Rev. Dr. Willie Bodrick, II, Senior Pastor | Minister Elizabeth Crockton | Minister Jeremi Taitt



Minister Isaiah Briggs | Minister Rachel Idowu Gray  
Rev. Dr. Arthur T. Gerald Jr., Pastor Emeritus | Minister Shirley Adams | Rev. Bernard Spencer

**TWELFTH BAPTIST CHURCH**

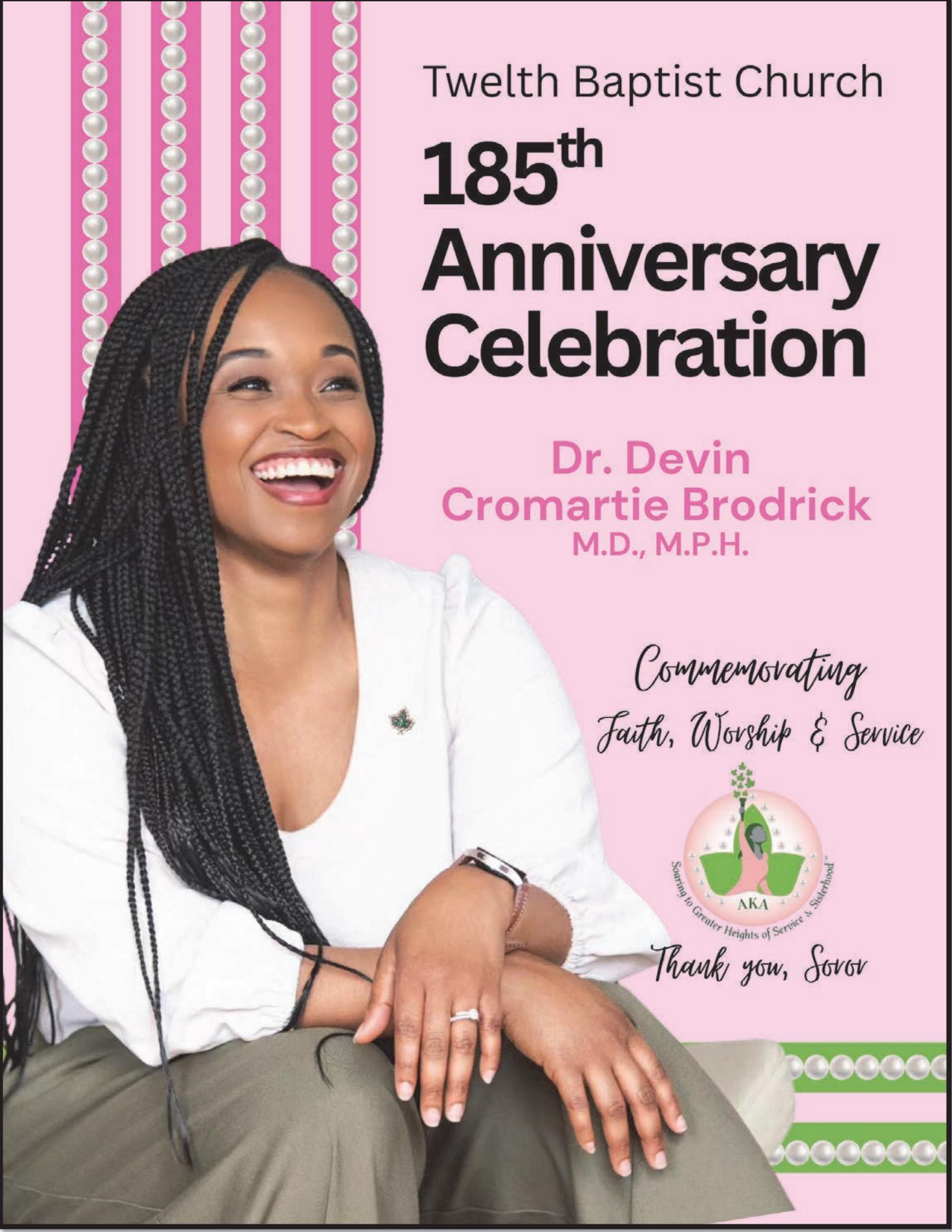
# THE GERALD FAMILY

*On this joyous occasion celebrating 185 years of faithful service  
the Gerald Family extend congratulations  
and pray God's grace  
continue to embrace Pastor Bodrick  
and our  
Twelfth Baptist Church Family.*



*Joshua 24:15 NIU But if serving the lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the amorites, in whose land you are living.  
But as for me and my household, we will serve the lord.*

**Rev. Dr. Arthur T. Gerald, Jr. 13<sup>TH</sup> Pastor  
Henrietta Williams-Gerald  
Arthur Michael Gerald  
Alana Michelle Gerald**



Twelfth Baptist Church  
**185<sup>th</sup>**  
**Anniversary**  
**Celebration**

**Dr. Devin  
Cromartie Brodrick  
M.D., M.P.H.**

*Commemorating  
Faith, Worship & Service*



*Thank you, Soror*



**CONGRATULATIONS  
TWELFTH BAPTIST CHURCH FOR 185  
YEARS OF SERVICE**

**The Bodrick Brothers**

**Bro. Willie Bodrick**

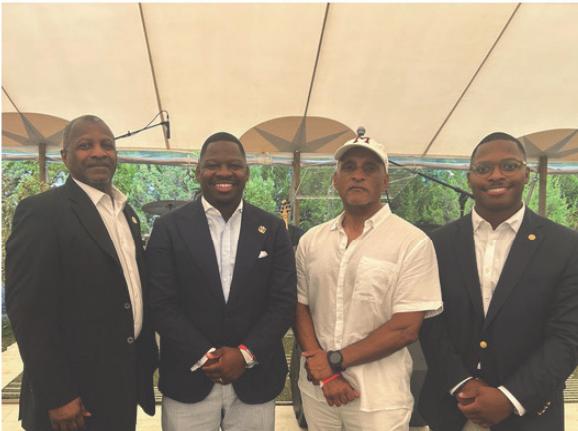
4-80-Rho

**Bro. Willie Bodrick, II**

2-08-Delta Theta

**Bro. Winston Bodrick**

5-13-Psi





## The Bodrick Family

Congratulations to the Historic **Twelfth Baptist Church** on **185 years** of ministry and **220 years** of unbroken faith from the African Baptist Church.

We give thanks to God for this sacred legacy of hope, service, and love. May the light of Twelfth continue to shine brightly for generations to come.



Mrs. Smith demanded excellence from her students as well as stewardship. She instilled in them that their jobs did not end with their individual success. She taught them that they have a responsibility to give back to their communities.

You can donate resources on behalf of the Dix Smith Scholarship to the historic Twelfth Baptist Church to support its students and educational services.



*"Oh heart, if one should say to you that the soul perishes like the body, answer that the flower withers but the seed remains."*  
-Kahlil Gibran

THE DIX SMITH FOUNDATION  
Boston, MA  
DixsmithJ@aol.com

DIX SMITH  
FAMILY FOUNDATION



*Fostering "The Golden Rule"*



#### INTRODUCTION

Mrs. Jacqueline Dix Smith was passionate about educational opportunity for children of color, cultural proficiency and civil rights. She loved working as the Director of The Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity Program in the Town of Braintree, Massachusetts and was appointed to the Massachusetts State Department of Education Racial Imbalance Advisory Council. She served on the Executive Board of the Black Educators' Alliance of Massachusetts and held leadership positions in many other public, professional and Christian educational associations, boards and conferences. Her guiding life ethic was the Golden Rule - "So in everything, do unto others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets."

-Matthew 7:12

#### THE JACQUELINE DIX SMITH CHARITABLE GIVING FOUNDATION

To honor Jacqueline's legacy, our family felt it fitting that we established a charitable giving foundation. The foundation will provide funding to support the missions of select non-profit organizations that Jacqueline was passionate about. We seek to ignite a flame of passion that encourages recipients to advance the ethics of Matthew 7:12 by striving for excellence and supporting the efforts of others to achieve the same.



#### TWELFTH BAPTIST CHURCH SCHOLARSHIP

AWARD AMOUNT	\$500-\$3000	DEADLINE	Mid-June
ELIGIBILITY	<p>Evidence of enrollment in an institution of higher learning in the arts and sciences</p> <p>Demonstrated willingness to serve the community and residency in Twelfth Baptist Church's catchment area</p>	<p>HOW TO APPLY</p> <p>Complete the application form</p> <p>Submit an essay</p> <p>Interview with Twelfth Baptist Church</p>	

Throughout her life, Mrs. Jacqueline Dix Smith was rooted in Christianity. She lived a life that was a true reflection of God's love. She loved Twelfth Baptist Church, its leadership, and its ministries. She was excited about its opportunities to engage and serve. She believed that all students have a fundamental right to a quality education.



# AMBRY

DEVELOPMENT

*Congratulations!*

**Twelfth Baptist Church**  
on your  
**185<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

*Building Spaces. Strengthening Communities.*

**Ambry Development Group** celebrates your  
steadfast commitment to faith, justice, and  
community. Your light continues to inspire all  
who work to build a stronger Boston.





“ For a man who does not value freedom for himself will never value it for others or put himself to any inconvenience to gain it for others.”

- FREDERICK DOUGLASS

#### THE FIGHT FOR HISTORY HAPPENED THERE.

The Boston African Meeting House was not only a historic spiritual and religious center but also a gathering place for education, culture, and politics.

#### HISTORY WAS MADE THERE.

The Massachusetts General Colored Association, dedicated to ending slavery and discrimination in America, met there. Abolitionists William Lloyd Garrison, Frederick Douglass, and Maria Stewart spoke there. William Lloyd Garrison founded the New England Anti-Slavery Society there. The New England Freedom Association assisted runaway slaves on the Underground Railroad there. The community celebrated the end of the international slave trade there.

One of the first African American Civil War regiments, the Massachusetts 54th Volunteer Regiment, was recruited there.

Know history.  
Share it.  
Protect it.



Museum of  
African American  
History  
Boston | Nantucket

Stories worth telling and preserving.

[www.maah.org](http://www.maah.org)

MAAH congratulates Twelfth Baptist Church on their 185th Anniversary!  
They are truly Built to Last!

# DEACONS MINISTRY 2025

**Congratulates  
Twelfth Baptist Church on your 185th  
Anniversary**



Sherman Bartholomew Sr. - Learie Blackwell - Andrew Henry (Treasurer)  
Maurice Nobles Jr. (Chairman) - Michael Brathwaite (Vice Chairman)  
Markel Crockton (Technology Advisor) - Warren Montgomery (Secretary)  
Row Two Marque Fraser - James Grant - Maurice Nobles, III



## HONORARY DEACONS

Hazel Murray - Emerson Brathwaite - Edwin Wright

*Romans 12:9-13 9 - "Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. 11 Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. 12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. 13 Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality".*

*Congratulations TBC, on your 185th Anniversary!  
Sending love to you from The TBC Deaconess Ministry*



Deaconess: Paula Henry, Donna Vass, Robin Cook-Nobles Treasurer, Sharon Keyes Chair; Gwen Stewert Asst. Correspondence Secretary, Stephanie Janey Correspondence Secretary, Carrie Woodson, Middle Row: Felicia Fraser Recording Secretary, Callie Walters and Minister Rayann Batchelder Co-Chair Bottom: Honorary Deaconess: Mildred Rogers, Charlotte Harris, Flo Trotman, Myrtle Creary and Geraldine Brown.

*Colossians 4:6 "Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man". KJV*

# TBC Dorcas Ministry

*The Dorcas Ministry will assist the Pastor, the Ministerial staff and the Diaconate in addressing the needs of church members of "Twelfth Baptist Church" who are sixty five years (65) plus.*



## GUIDING SCRIPTURE:

*Jesus said, "I was hungry and you fed me",  
I was sick and you visited me.*

*In as much as you have done it to me the least of these,  
you did it to me.*

*Matthew 25: 34-4*

## *Celebrating 185 Years of TBC*

# MISSIONS MINISTRY



Dorritt Marshall, Ramona Irving (Secretary), Stacey Isles-Brako (Assistant Secretary), Marylyn Blackwell (Treasurer), Rev. Dr. Willie Bodrick II, Markel Crockton (Chairperson), Violet Britton (Vice-Chairperson), Shirly Johnson (Assistant Treasurer), Lillie Davis (Correspondence Secretary) & Eslyn Williams

## Supported Organizations

- TABCOM American Baptist Church, USA
- United Negro College Fund
- Roxbury YMCA
- Museum of Afro-American History
- Boston Southwest Association
- Vision New England
- Black Christian Experience
- National Baptist Convention

## Home Missions

- Deaconess Benevolent Fund
- Deacon Benevolent Fund
- Missions Scholarship Fund
- Missions Contingency Fund
- Kitchen Ministry
- Welcome/Hospitality Ministry

## Global Outreach

- Honduras Ministry
- Harris Liberia School

## Community Outreach

- Warren Gardens Housing Development
- Food Pantry Ministry
- Thrift Shop
- Returning Citizens Restoration Ministry
- Peace Walk Ministry
- Wellness Ministry
- TBC Sisters' Keeper Ministry
- Angel Tree Ministry
- Swingers Ministry

Happy 185th Anniversary to Twelfth Baptist Church! We are thankful for the ongoing support you've given to many throughout the years. We look forward to your continued guidance in the future, while remaining a shining light in the community.

# TBC Trustees Ministry

*Our mission is to serve as faithful stewards of the church's physical and financial resources, ensuring responsible management and transparent accountability. As custodians of the church's assets, the Trustee Ministry diligently oversees both liquid and fixed resources, working to accurately achieve the financial goals and objectives of the church community*



*"Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."*  
Matthew 18:19-20 (NIV).

## Celebrating 185 Years of TBC

# In Honor of the late Deacon Milton and Sister Mary Elizabeth (Norwood) Britton



We, the family, join in celebrating Historic Twelfth Baptist Church and 185 years of Christian faithfulness. May God continue to Bless TBC and through their good works, continue to love the Lord with heart, spirit and joy.

On behalf of the Britton Family  
**Violet Ann and (Anthony Busby)**

**The late Milton Legrand, Sr. and (Ruth Ann Washington)**  
Zina Michelle and (Henry/Hank) Nord  
Ashley Victoria and (Olu) Osinubi

Milton Legrand, Jr. and (Lori Jean Smith)  
Sydni Anne - Jordyn Olivia

**The late Crystal Arlene**

**Linda Doreen and (Rudolph John) Cabral, Sr.**  
Shelby Joi and (Ernest) Smith, III  
Sierra Joi - Ernest John (E.J.), IV

**Family Love is Forever**



I loved serving God and my church family in Roxbury. I was eternally grateful for the teachings of Twelfth Baptist Church.

It blessed me and my family through the years.

Though I am no longer with you in body, I am in spirit.

**Happy 185th Anniversary to  
Twelfth Baptist Church**

Bobbie Ann Boykin



**Congratulations to  
Twelfth Baptist Church  
on their  
185th Anniversary**

The greatest joy, in our life was watching you fulfill your purpose. Until we meet again. In loving memory of

**Bobbie Ann Boykin**

*Our beloved wife & Mother  
The Boykin Family*

*And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as  
to the Lord, and not unto men.  
Colossians 3:23 (KJV)*

# TBC AUDIO VISUAL MINISTRY

TBCBOSTON.ORG

**Celebrating 50 years in 2027  
Using Media & Tech Inside and Out  
Spreading Christ's Word & Work from TBC**



Information  
Technology



## IN MEMORY OF



**Jane Agatha Caines West**

March 23, 1923 - November 16, 2002

*a daughter, granddaughter, sister mother, grandmother, great-grandmother great-great grandmother and friend. Only by the grace of God her spiritual legacy lives on.*

*Giving all praise to the Almighty,*

## In Memory of Betty Jean Wright Johnson



**Betty Jean Wright Johnson**  
February 26, 1943 October 10, 2023

**She was married at TBC in 1971  
to  
Rev. Dr. Alvan Nathaniel Johnson, Jr.**

# CONGRATULATIONS TO TWELFTH BAPTIST CHURCH FROM THE KING SOLOMON MINISTRY

We thank you for your ongoing love, support, and guidance.  
Committed to God, love, harmony, visiting the sick  
and raising funds to help with the expenses of the church.



On February 5, 1922, under the leadership of the Rev. Matthew A.N. Shaw, a group of twenty-five members of the twelfth Baptist Church met with Deacon R.W. Brown. The purpose of this meeting was to form a club to help defray expenses of the church. The proposal was accepted, and the members immediately centered their efforts on a suitable name for the club. The name had to be significant. At the next meeting, Mrs. Kate Brown suggested the club be named The King Solomon Club, in memory of two faithful deacons, Joseph King and Solomon Williams, and in recognition of their service. The name and motion were accepted and adopted and thus the King Solomon club was formed. In 1990, under the leadership of Rev. Michael E. Hayes, the Pastor of the Twelfth Baptist Church, a request was made to change the King Solomon Club to King Solomon Ministry to reflect the values, mission, and vision of the church. The key success of the ministry now in its 103RD year is love, harmony, visiting the sick and raising funds to help defray the expenses of the church.

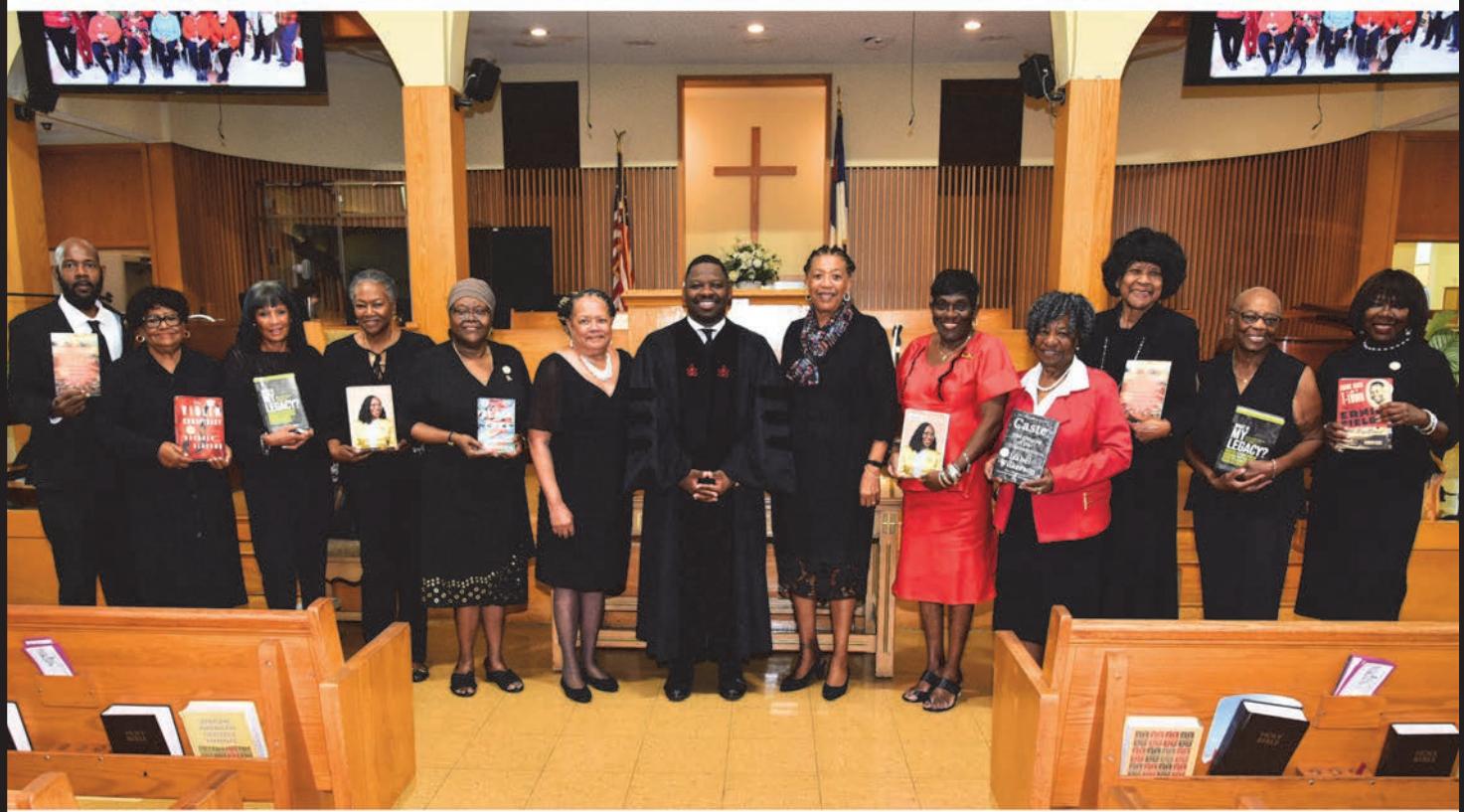
## THE KING SOLOMON MINISTRY CELEBRATES 103 YEARS

*The King Solomon Ministry's Motto: Micah 6:8 The Lord told us what is good, what he requires from us to do, what is just, to show constant love and live in humble fellowship with God.*

Members: Kathrina Caiby, President, Darryl (Coach) Simpson, Treasurer  
Phoebelyn (Lyn) Reid, Secretary, Gwendolyn (Gwen) Stewart, Leca Dyer-Kyei  
Phebe Dyer, Jennie Brathwaite, Adonica Chaplain, Billye Ruth Thomas  
Lulu Prevoe, Sherrie Cox, Eveline Cornish

# LITERARY FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

## Happy 185th Anniversary Twelfth Baptist Church!



Rudolph John & Linda Britton Cabral, Sr.

Congratulations and Blessings  
to  
Historic Twelfth Baptist Church  
in celebration of 185 years of service  
to our Lord and Savior.



In Gratitude

*In Loving Memory of The  
Alexander Coren & Burton Families*



In Loving Memory of the  
Alexander  
Coren  
Burton  
Families  
From Ruthie, Rosa &  
Charlotte

*Congratulations TBC on you 185<sup>th</sup>*

# TWELFTH BAPTIST LITERGICAL DANCE

For 185 years, Twelfth Baptist Church has stood as a beacon of hope, faith, and love in our community. Our rich history is a testament to the strength of our congregation and the legacy we uphold.



The Twelfth Baptist Church Liturgical Dance Team embodies this spirit, bringing our church's message to life through movement and expression. With every graceful step and heartfelt performance, we share our devotion to God and the community we serve.

# TBC MEN'S FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY



Some Themes: | God's Authority | Back To Work | Boys to Men | Choosing the Right Fruit  
Come As You Are / You Can Change Inside | Coming Of Age | Empowered by the Spirit  
First Responders / Preparing for the Journey | Kingdom Men | Men of Purpose  
Spread Your Wings | Living Intentionally in the New Norm | Stepping Up To The Plate | Unity



THE  
RICHARDSON'S  
**BRIANNA, CARL,  
BRENDA, BRYAN &  
GEORGE**

IN MEMORY OF OUR  
PARENTS AND  
GRANDPARENTS

ALDEAN & GUS  
RICHARDSON

**HAPPY 185<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY  
TBC!**

*B&B Rich Designs*  
From: Brenda & Brianna Richardson  
Email: [Bbrichdesigns@gmail.com](mailto:Bbrichdesigns@gmail.com)  
*All with love*  
We create diaper cakes, t-shirt designs, gift baskets & more

## THE MUSIC MINISTRY

### Congratulates Twelfth Baptist Church on Its 185th Anniversary

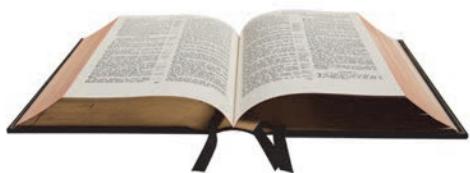
“Sing to the Lord a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy.” – Psalm 33:3  
With grateful hearts, the Music Ministry celebrates 185 years of service, faith, and God’s unfailing grace at Twelfth Baptist Church. We rejoice in lifting our voices in praise as we honor this remarkable milestone together.

To God be the glory for all the things He has done!



## SUNDAY SCHOOL MINISTRY Happy 185<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom... Colossians 3:16



### “SUNDAY SCHOOL” – Adults

Sunday Morning 9:30am – 10:30am  
ZOOM ID 847 2223 5972 password 632546  
With Min. Rachel Idowu Gray & Donna Vass

### “SUNDAY SCHOOL” – Adult Women

Sunday Mornings 9:30am – 10:15am  
ZOOM ID 838 0799 8006 Passcode 740285  
With Leaders Elizabeth Crockton, and Karen Wier

### MEN’S BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

Monday Evenings 7p-9p  
ZOOM ID: 825 0472 8789 – Passcode: 160 With  
Sidney Burton Jr. and Darryl C. Simpson

*Great is thy faithfulness!*

*Congratulations  
Twelfth Baptist Church on your  
185th Anniversary.*



**Sylvia Brown**

*John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”*

*John 3:16 KJV*



# TBC NURSES MINISTRY



Happy 185th  
Anniversary  
Twelfth  
Baptist  
Church!



**Tammy L. Hill**

TYPE 6 FUNERAL DIRECTOR AND EMBALMER

89 Walnut Avenue  
Roxbury, MA 02119

617 427-0828  
fax: 888 572-0203  
[Tammy@DavisOfBoston.com](mailto:Tammy@DavisOfBoston.com)  
[www.DavisOfBoston.com](http://www.DavisOfBoston.com)

Congratulations to  
Twelfth Baptist Church  
on its 185th anniversary.



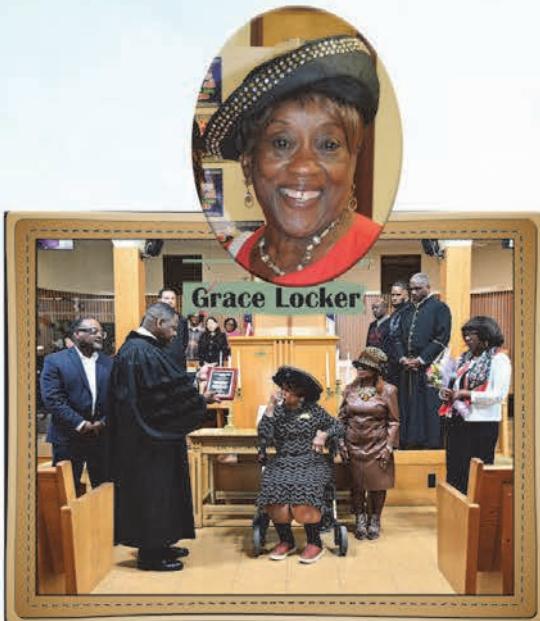
**TN BC**

Mass Chapter of Teamsters  
National Black Caucus

**“UNITY IS POWER”**

# TBC Swingers Ministry

Peace and Joy as we Celebrate  
our 185<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



Frances Sims



# CONGRATULATIONS

## HISTORIC TWELFTH BAPTIST CHURCH

on this your 185<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**We the ushers are proud to serve  
as doorkeepers in this Historic Church**



Dorrit Marshall -Sandra R Hines-Mae Smith-  
Gwendolyn Stewart-Breland Thompson, Sr.  
Olga Morency-Christine Spencer- Sonia Lawrence  
Not Pictured

Jeffrey Jackman-James Pinckney  
Wanda Hale Jones-Frances Glenn-Chalmers

# THE TBC CHURCHWOMEN FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

*Congratulates Twelfth Baptist Church  
on Their 185<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*



The purpose of this fellowship is to unite the women of TBC for fellowship with other women for spiritual growth and development through worship, ministering in our community and praying for each other.  
Thank you for all your support.  
"God Bless TBC Women"

# TBC WOMEN'S MINISTRY EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Congratulations Twelfth Baptist Church for 185 years



L-R Sis. Elizabeth Price, Minister Naomi Crumb, President Michele V. Bernardez, Sis. Christine Yancey, Sis. Christine Spencer, Sis. Linda Davis, Sis. Donna Vass, Sis. Esyln Williams, Deaconess Rayann Batchelder

## DONNA'S HAIR CARE SERVICE

DONNA'S HAIR CARE  
SERVICE

**DONNA PRICE**

IN HOME HAIR SERVICES:  
BRAIDS HAIRCUTS \*\*\*\*  
PH: 781-223-0322

In Memory of  
**EDDIE LU BLAKELY**  
from The  
Madrey and Lee Family



IN LOVING MEMORY  
*Eddie Lee*  
**BLAKELY**

AUGUST 7, 1926 | JUNE 7, 2024

# TBC WELLNESS MINISTRY

## Celebrating 185 Years of Faith and Fellowship as Twelfth Baptist Church & 220 Years from the First African Baptist Church of Boston

The Wellness Ministry is honored to celebrate this historic milestone of our church. Incepted this year by our First Lady, the Wellness Ministry is committed to nurturing the 8 Dimensions of Wellness

Physical, Emotional, Spiritual, Social, Intellectual, Occupational, Financial, and Environmental. By caring for the whole person, we walk together toward balanced, healthy, and Spirit-led lives.



The names from left to right, bottom to top row are: Reanna Less, Zian Perez, Grace Umana, Robin Cook-Nobles, First Lady Dr. Devin Cromartie Bodrick, Barbara Gibbs; Anita Hamilton, Zina Nord, Marcia Fearon, Michele Spratling, Janice O. Allen; Evelyn Farrington, Valerie Jean Brown-Johnson, Mary Pam Powell; Carol Beatty, Jade Wilkins, Sydni Britton, Raymond Nobles; Zeaven Hoxie, Minister Isaiah Briggs, Juana Gayle-Flores.

**WITH GRATITUDE, WE HONOR OUR PAST AND EMBRACE A FUTURE  
ROOTED IN FAITH, WHOLENESS, AND PURPOSE.**

## Sharlea Brookes-Keyes



Twelfth Baptist Church has been more than just a place of worship for me—it has placed a part within the foundation of my spiritual journey, my sense of community, and so much of the person I am today. I joined the church at four years old, and from then on, the lessons I learned here helped shaped not only my faith but my understanding of what it means to be part of something larger than yourself.

What has always stood out about TBC is the community. Even when people had different opinions or perspectives, the heart of this church was always about supporting one another. I saw our church pour into people in need—families struggling, children searching for direction, neighbors on the street. There was always a hand extended, always a ministry for someone to lean on. From the food pantry to the Girl Scouts, the choir to the prison ministry, the deacon and deaconess boards to missions—Twelfth Baptist provided countless opportunities to serve, to grow, and to belong.

For me personally, being part of the children's choir, youth choir, Girl Scouts, cooking classes and youth ministry gave me life long friendships—friends who

are also spiritual sisters and brothers, who have prayed with me and for me. These relationships remain some of the strongest I have.

I also have to acknowledge the bright lights in our church family who have had an immeasurable impact on my life. One of those is Mrs. Monica Wright. Without her guidance, I would not be where I am today. Because of her, I was introduced to Balfour Academy, a program that ultimately led me to earn a full scholarship to Northeastern University. That opportunity changed my life forever. From there, I was able to build a career, launch businesses, and create pathways not just for myself but for others. And it all traces back to a seed planted at 12 years old, when someone in this church cared enough to open a door for me.

Even my love for music was enhanced here. Singing in the choir was more than entertainment—it was worship, it was fellowship, it was healing. Those moments influenced the way I now listen, create, and build in my own career.

As I approach 30, one lesson from TBC rings louder than ever: the power of prayer. When I was younger, I didn't always understand it. But looking back, I know without a doubt that I am here because people prayed for me. They had me on their hearts, they lifted me up, and those prayers have covered me my entire life. When I find myself in moments of favor or protection, I know it's because somebody took the time to pray.

Finally, TBC is not just part of my story—it's part of Boston's story, part of Black history, and part of a national legacy of faith and freedom. To be connected to a church with such a deep history and such a lasting impact is truly an honor. On this 185th anniversary, I am grateful for every prayer, every opportunity, every friend, and every lesson I've received here.

# New Names Renewed Commitment

Dr. Joshua Arkin &  
Technologist Priscilla Braga  
BMC South Cath Lab

St. Elizabeth's Medical Center is now Boston Medical Center – Brighton.  
Good Samaritan Medical Center is now Boston Medical Center – South.  
Boston Medical Center Health System is committed to providing accessible  
and compassionate care close to home.



Explore a new kind  
of excellence in healthcare  
at [bmhealthsystem.org](http://bmhealthsystem.org)

Boston Medical Center  
**HEALTH SYSTEM**

**Sadie and Donalexander Goss**  
**Congratulate TBC on thier**  
**185<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**



**“Built to Last”**

**THE SMITHER FAMILY**  
**Congratulates Twelfth Baptist Church**  
**on 185 years of service**  
**to the community**



*To God be the Glory from the Smither Family*  
**E.J., Shelby, Sierra, and Ernest Smither**

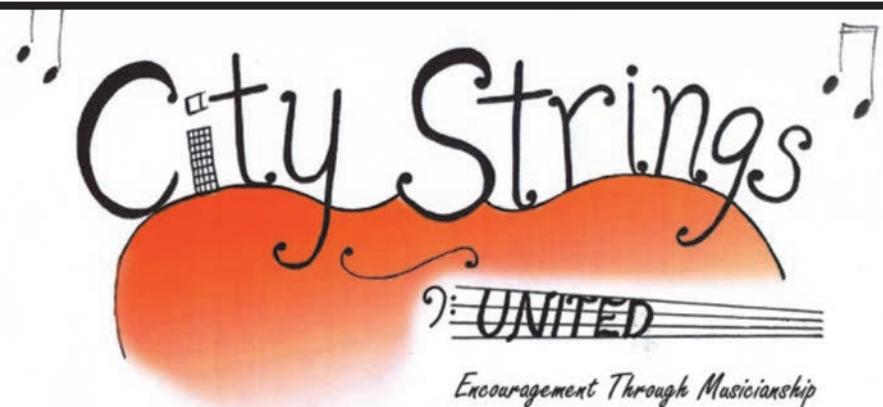
CONGRATULATIONS TWELFTH BAPTIST CHURCH AS YOU  
CELEBRATE 185 YEARS OF SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE AND  
COMMITMENT TO THE COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD



in loving memory of  
Mrs. Susie Griffith  
1929-2012

Our Matriarch  
A Faithful Long Serving Member  
of Twelfth Baptist Church

"We have Come this far by faith"  
2 Corinthians 5:7



*Encouragement Through Musicianship*

*City Strings United  
congratulates  
Twelfth Baptist Church  
on 185 years and says  
Thank You!  
for partnering with us  
since 2012!*



photo credit: Robert Torres

**[www.citystrings.org](http://www.citystrings.org)**



Rebecca Ridley, Funeral Director and Owner

*“For we are co-workers in God’s service;  
you are God’s field, God’s building”  
1 Corinthians 3:9*

*“Everybody can be great, because  
everybody can serve.”  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

We at the Davis Funeral Home join in celebrating Twelfth Baptist Church on 185 years of faithful service to God’s people. Your witness has been a beacon of hope and a touchstone of faith for generations, inspiring leaders and shaping a beloved community.

*With respect and gratitude, we honor your  
legacy of faith, service, and enduring commitment to  
God’s kingdom.*



Roxbury and Mattapan  
[www.DavisOfBoston.com](http://www.DavisOfBoston.com)



## CHARLES AND MOLLIE DAWSON,

Charles Edward Dawson - Sunrise 6/12/27 Sunset 5/27/24

Mollie A. Dawson - Sunrise 4/30/32 Sunset 1/24/25

Individually and collectively, served in Ministry at Twelfth Baptist Church for over 80 years. Their legacy, left for future generations, is their love and service to God, Family Bonding, Community Building and the Security of National and Global Peace Liberation.

Charles E. Dawson was born in Boston, Massachusetts and attended the Boston

Public Schools. He served in the United States Army in World War II and Korean Wars.

He was co-founder of the Vets 60 Plus organization and an active leader of the Amvets. He was an active participant in AARP, Union President, Mechanical Engineer and a Compliance Officer. As a member of Historic Twelfth Baptist from the age of 10 years old, he served as a Boy Scout Leader, Senior Usher, Transportation Ministry, and the Security Team.

Mollie A. (Ware) Dawson was born in Lynchburg, Virginia. She attended the Lynchburg Public Schools where she excelled in Academics, Musical Theater and Sports. Mollie earned her Nursing Degree from Mercy Douglas School in Philadelphia, PA. Upon joining the Army Nurse Corps, she was promoted from the rank of Lieutenant to Captain. She served in the military both nationally and abroad and worked as a Hospital Medical Surgical RN and Nurse Supervisor in Out-Patient Clinics.

At Twelfth Baptist Church, Mollie actively provided ministry leadership in the Girl Scouts, Dorcas Ministry, Women's Fellowship, Church Pre-school and Nursery Programs. She also actively served in many community organizations.

Charles and Mollie married in 1965 and raised two daughters, Linda Eubanks-McClain and Paula Price. They were the proud grandparents of 14 grandchildren, 27 great grandchildren and 3 great great grandchildren. They were also known as "Mom and "Dad" to many young people in both the church and community.

### **"KEEP THE LEGACY ALIVE" - "WE ARE BUILT TO LAST"**

*"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart."*

**Deuteronomy 6:5**

A special thanks from the Dawson, Price and McClain and extended families

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!**



**Celebrating 185 years of  
faith, community, and  
service.**

**LOEG**

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# **ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS to Twelfth Baptist Church for serving the Lord for 185 years**

**EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH  
*You Are Welcome Here!!***

**We are a Church worth driving to while becoming a  
Faith Soaring Ministry!**

**Sunday Morning Worship Service 11:00 A.M.**

**Reverend Carl B. Thompson, Sr. Pastor  
30 Central Street  
Abington, MA 02351  
978-668-4153**

**Visit our website: [www.ebenezerbcboston.org](http://www.ebenezerbcboston.org)  
Email us: [info@ebenezerbcboston.org](mailto:info@ebenezerbcboston.org)  
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**VICTORY!**

# FIT4LIFE MOVEMENT

we are a holistic fitness studio designed to nurture your body and soul! At fit4life, we focus on five key pillars: Spirit, Thought, Fuel, Fitness, and Relaxation. Each element is crafted to support our mission of creating a balanced and healthy lifestyle for you.



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# **CONGRATULATIONS TO TWELFTH BAPTIST CHURCH ON YOUR 185TH ANNIVERSARY**

*“For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;  
his faithfulness continues through all generations.”*  
*Psalm 100:5*

***God bless you TBC as you continue to experience God’s faithfulness!***

## **GLOBAL MINISTRIES CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

*670 Washington Street, Dorchester, MA 02124*

***Pastor Bruce & Karin Wall***



### ***Our Mission is . . .***

*“To reach the lost for Christ and to create a Christian Community where  
believers can heal,  
mature, and walk in wholeness.”*

*Luke 19:10, John 3:1, Mark 5:28, and Acts 2:42-47*

### **Home of Boston Praise Radio 102.9FM**

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Station: WBPG-LP 102.9 FM Radio Sundays,  
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***View Our Website: [www.gmccboston.org](http://www.gmccboston.org)***

# HURLEY WIRE & CABLE



Congratulations to Twelfth Baptist Church on 185 Years!

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*wire & cable*

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# Telecom Management, Simplified.

Your single point-of-contact for everything telecom.



## About ITD Cloud

ITD Cloud is a telecom advisory firm that helps SMBs source, purchase, and implement the right technology in their organization so that they feel confident about their systems without having to deal with the confusion, hassle, and high cost of the entire process.

## What We Offer

With 20+ years of expertise and partnerships with 330+ carriers/vendors nationwide, we give you:

- A single point of contact for all telecom vendors
- Guidance to align solutions with your business goals
- Ongoing support long after implementation

We don't just help you choose...we handle the research, negotiation, and support so that your team can focus on what matters.

## Core Solutions

- Cloud Internet (Coax, Fiber, SD-WAN etc.)
- Cloud Telephone (PBX, UCaaS, Mobile, etc.)
- Cloud Migration (Data Storage, SaaS, etc.)
- Cloud Merchant Services (POS Terminals, etc.)

## Our Process:

### Evaluate

Free telecom audit  
(review of current setup,  
contracts, and costs)

### Identify

We provide tailored  
solutions based on your  
business goals.

### Selection / Support

We provide multiple  
quotes through 1 channel  
& stick around post-sale.

## Industry-Leading Carrier Partnerships



*In Loving Memory of  
Daniel Benjamin Janey  
&  
Clara May Janey  
and their Descendants*

*To Commemorate*

*the 185<sup>th</sup> Year*

*Celebration of the  
founding of the Historic*

*Twelfth Baptist Church*





## Legacy in Full Bloom Celebrating 9 Generations Of Jeannette Elizabeth Bowen Ancestry

On a crisp autumn morning in Boston, September 26, 1925, Jeannette Elizabeth Harris entered the world—a child of Mi'kmaq, Afro-Caribbean, and Scottish culture and descent. Raised by her mother Nellie Mae Harris in Lower Roxbury/South End, Nellie's Nova Scotian cultural heritage instilled a deep sense of faith, storytelling, and service in Jeannette and her early years in Barbados added vibrant cultural layers to her identity.

In the 1940s, Jeannette broke barriers by attending the Boston City Hospital School of Nursing—an extraordinary achievement for a Black woman at that time. Amid World War II and public health crises, she earned her nursing license and served Boston's communities with compassion, offering care in clinics, homes, and through civic work. She tutored adults seeking GEDs, mentored youth, and contributed to organizations like the Harriet Tubman House, embodying the power of education and uplift. Her ministry flourished at Twelfth Baptist Church, where she sang in the adult choir, taught Sunday school, and led community support efforts. As a lay minister, she organized food drives and prayer circles, transforming her kitchen into a sanctuary where collard greens, cornbread, and stews became vessels of communion and healing. Her soprano voice lifted hearts, and her Sunday school lessons planted seeds of faith in young minds.

As a leader in Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, Jeannette opened doors for young Black women across Massachusetts, serving as Massachusetts State Director and guiding them with warmth and vision. She hosted workshops that braided joy with life skills, mentored teen girls, and supported adult continuing education. Her leadership reflected commitment to intergenerational growth and community resilience.

Jeannette's lineage is a living archive. Her father's ancestry traces to enslaved Africans and European settlers in Barbados, including William Harris, a landowner in St. Philip Parish during colonial rule—his name a remnant of empire, now reclaimed through ritual and remembrance. Her mother's Mi'kmaq cultural heritage reflects thousands of years of indigenous stewardship, honoring the earth's rhythms and cycles, with ancestral memory stretching back to ancient dynastic civilizations.

Her life bridges timelines: from Bronze Age migrations and colonial entanglements to the Contemporary Era's call for planetary healing and social restoration. Her legacy spirals through the Industrial Revolution's steam and soot, the Enlightenment's quest for reason, and the Renaissance's devotion to art and spirit. In her voice, her nursing hands, her sorority leadership, and her ceremonial grace, Jeannette carried the codes of every age—activating them anew for her descendants and community.

She served in clinics, homes, and anywhere need called. Her nursing license from the Massachusetts Board of Registration arrived like a hard-won key. It unlocked more than jobs—it let her mend bodies and lift spirits across Boston's tight-knit neighborhoods. Civic work pulled her in. She tutored adults chasing GEDs, guiding them toward diplomas and better paths. Her efforts tied back to places like the Harriet Tubman House, where learning bridged gaps and built strength.

Her legacy lives on through her daughter, Paulette Kristine Ford, a civic, educational and community leader in sync with ancestral healer codes, animating portraits that honor heritage. Paulette continues the work of intergenerational healing, civic leadership, and ceremonial storytelling.

We thank 185 and Twelfth Baptist Church for helping us celebrate Jeannette not just for her achievements, but for the community of care and intergenerational healing she inspired. Her story is a living testament that history is sung, lived, and passed on—a river of grace flowing through time.

**Angelique C.A. Ford** BasAmunRa, Spiritual Enrichment, Writer and Ancestral Counselor

# JSCC

J ohn S helburne C ommunity C ouncil

2730 Washington St. Roxbury, Mass 02119

## Honorary Board Members

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C. Vincent Haynes  
Joe Fitzgerald  
Clarence "Jeep" Jones  
Joyce Williams Mitchell  
John Morgan  
H. Carl McCall

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Paul Benders  
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Alma Wright

*"As The Twig Is Bent Ye Shall Ye Grow"*

*John A. Shelburne Community Center*

## *Home Of:*

- *Jeep Jones-Community Room*
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- *Alfreda Harris-Gymnasium*
- *Timothy Smith-Computer Room*

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Phone#617-635-5215*

# KAREN WIER'S REALTY CO.



ESTD | 2018

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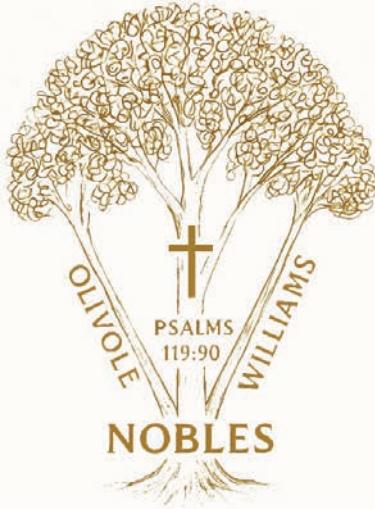
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**Congratulations TBC on 185 years**

# In Honor and Memory of Deacon Maurice & Deaconess Agnes Nobles Sr.



1949 - 2009



Mims & Deaconess Mattie Nobles Sr.  
Circa: 1949-1988



## A TREE

A tree stood by the wayside  
And mankind passed it by  
Yet none paused to wonder,  
Why it points towards the sky!

But from the sky it drew its strength  
To stand against the winds,  
So deeply was it rooted  
No storm could make it bend.

From this we learn a lesson  
Let not your faith grow dim  
For like this tree He'll strengthen you,  
Just put your faith in Him.

*Written by Deacon Maurice Nobles, Sr.*

‘Families are like branches on a tree. We grow in  
different directions yet our roots remain as one.’  
Unknown

**Congratulations to Our Twelfth Baptist Church  
on their 185th Anniversary  
The Nobles Family Legacy Continues**

# JOBE

*a story of unwavering faith*

## Jobe Is Returning To Boston

The Jobe Concert Series is scheduled for Autumn and Winter of 2025-26

Jobe The Musical "The Full Production" will be opening Spring of 2026

# JOBE

*a story of unwavering faith*

## Jobe Is Returning To Boston

The Jobe Concert Series is scheduled for Autumn and Winter of 2025-26

Jobe The Musical "The Full Production" will be opening Spring of 2026

Milton Wright's acclaimed soulful adaptation of the Book of Job returns in an exciting new production. "The Book of Job is one for the ages, as well as for our current times and trials". Come enjoy this story of unwavering faith.

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Milton Wright Music, and Kavayah Sounds



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-  **Franklin**  
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# Congratulations

## Twelfth Baptist Church

On the occasion of your

# ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-FIFTH

## Anniversary Celebration



## Peoples Baptist Church of Boston

A Christ-Centered Caring Church

Organized as the First African Baptist Church, August 8, 1805

134 Camden Street – Boston, Massachusetts

---

Reverend Art J. Gordon, M. Div, Pastor

Reverend Wesley A. Roberts, Ph. D., Pastor Emeritus



POPPA B's  
BBQ SOUL

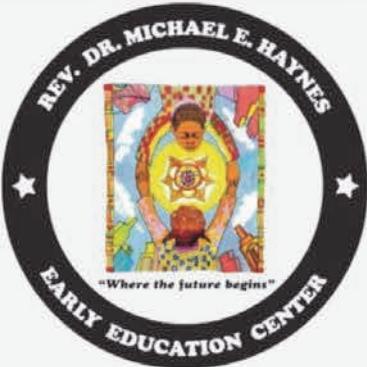
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**Twelfth Baptist Church**  
on their  
**185th Anniversary**



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*"There's gold in the  
hills of Roxbury..."*

# Congratulations to

Twelfth Baptist Church for 220 years of service  
to our community. May God continue to prosper  
you in all of your future endeavours!



BOSTON COMMUNITY  
**HUB SCHOOLS**  
REV. DR. MICHAEL E. HAYNES EARLY EDUCATION CENTER



- **Donette I. Wilson Wood, Principal**
- **Servicing 202 students in K0 to Grade one, three to six year olds**
- **Annual Special Man in My Life Event with more than 120 male participants.**
- **ESOL series of classes for parents happened this year sponsored by YMCA.**
- **Surpassed our school's student attendance goal of 95% for several days.**
- **The Haynes EEC Expansion to K-6 School is beginning**
- **Over 2,000 books were donated by Story Time Craft to start and increase home libraries.**
- **Achieved NAEYC Accreditation for the 4th time since we opened in 1998.**
- **Full inclusion Early Education Center**
- **Grade-one scholars attended swimming classes at the Roxbury YMCA.**
- **Bi-Weekly Mike's ( Rev. Haynes) Mesa Food Pantry.**
- **Annual 5K Run/Walk is not an institution at the Haynes**



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Rt. Rev. Samuel Lawrence Green, Sr. Presiding Prelate

Dr. Phyllis N. Green, Episcopal Supervisor

Rev. Jocelyn K. Hart Lovelace, Presiding Elder

Rev. Dr. Ellis I. Washington, Pastor/Teacher

## *Greetings and Best Wishes*

Rev. Dr. Willie Bodrick, II, J.D., MDiv, Senior Pastor  
and Dr. Devin Cromartie Bodrick

# **CONGRATULATIONS!**

*On Your 185th Church Anniversary*

*&*

*220 years from the founding of the  
First African Baptist Church*

May the grace of God be with you  
as you do the Work before you!



Rev. Dr. Ellis I. Washington, Pastor/Teacher  
First Lady Nathine Johnson Washington  
The Officers and Members of  
St. Paul A.M.E. Church

Sunday Worship Service.....10:00 A.M.  
Sunday Adult Church School .....9:00 A.M.  
Wednesday Night Bible Study.....6:30 P.M.  
Saturday Youth Church School .....10:00 A.M.



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*Second African Meeting House Corporation*



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ARTHUR MICHAEL GERALD, ASST. TREASURER

CLARA BELL, CLERK

JOHN COOPER, ASST. CLERK



ST. JOHN MISSIONARY  
BAPTIST CHURCH

Congratulations  
our  
neighbor

TWELFTH BAPTIST CHURCH  
on your  
185th Church Anniversary!

*"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid"*  
Matthew 5:14

ST. JOHN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH  
230 Warren Street, Roxbury, MA. 02119  
Rev Edward Cooks - Interim Pastor

# WARREN GARDENS COOP

## A Legacy of Faith and Community: Warren Gardens Honors Twelfth Baptist Church

### A Tribute of Gratitude and Celebration

On behalf of Warren Gardens Housing Cooperative, we extend our heartfelt thanks and deepest appreciation to Twelfth Baptist Church - a pillar of faith, strength, and leadership in the heart of Roxbury. Today, we join countless others in celebrating two extraordinary milestones that stand as monuments to resilience and enduring purpose:

- 220 years of the Twelfth Baptist African Meeting House, a historic foundation of Black faith, fellowship, and activism.
- 185 years of the Twelfth Baptist Church as a beacon of spiritual guidance and unwavering community support.

Through times of struggle, through seasons of change, and across generations of triumph and trial, Twelfth Baptist Church has remained steadfast - offering not only spiritual strength but also mental, physical, and financial support to the communities it serves. Your commitment to justice, education, empowerment, and neighborly care has shaped lives and transformed futures.



Warren Gardens Coop - Typical Buildings, Roxbury, MA

# HAPPY 185th CELEBRATION

## The Osgood & Woodson Family



Edward and Mrs. Leoner Woodson



Sara Osgood



Eunice and Leoner Woodson



Robert, Charles, Brian, Donald, Michael, Middle: Donna,  
Sitting from the bottom left: Liz Jackson, Leoner and Edward  
Woodson, Sarah Osgood



Jalee', Tre, Mr. Robert and Mrs. Carrie  
Woodson, Jayce, and Brandon'



Barbara A. Gibbs' 75th Birthday Celebration & Family



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Founder / Creative Director

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# THE LEGACY OF THE THOMAS FAMILY LIVES ON IN SERVICE TO GOD

Paternal Great Grandmother married by Rev. Leonard Grimes - 1870

Paternal Great Grandfather – Joseph E. Thomas

*past TBC custodian – member 50+ years*

Paternal Grandmother – Margaret Davis

*Nurses Ministry & – TBC 105th Anniversary Finance Committee*

Parents – Charles & Pauline Thomas

*various ministries – members for 75+ years*

Charles W. Thomas

*Deacon Emeritus – Salem Baptist Church, Abington, PA*

Clara Thomas Bell – TBC Church Administrator

Carolyn M. Thomas

*Church Clerk, Union Baptist Church, Hartford, CT*

## CONGRATULATIONS FROM

LIFE CHANGING CHURCH

170 Woodrow Ave Boston MA 02124

Bishop-Designate Antoine Montgomery Sr., Pastor

We would love to invite all women 13+ to our upcoming Choose Life Women's Gathering, May 16th, 2026. This will be a special time of fellowship, encouragement, and connection as women come together to be reminded that we are STRONG in the Lord. This year's theme celebrates the strength found in Christ and the joy of choosing life, "because when we choose God, we choose life".



  
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# Happy 185th Anniversary, TBC!

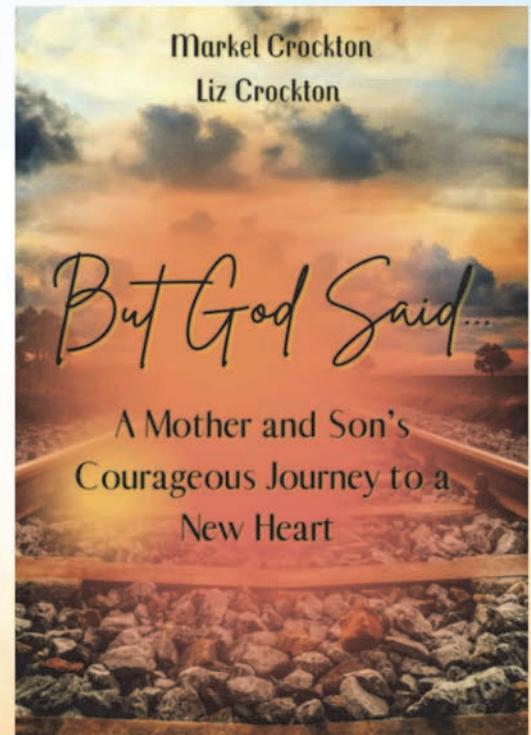
## From the Crockton Family

Congratulations on 185 years of impactful Kingdom Service. We're honored to call TBC our spiritual home and family.

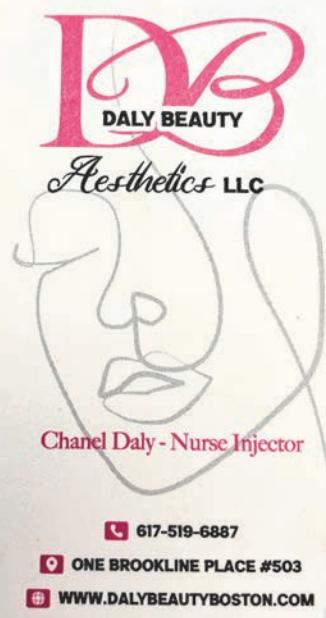
To our church family, thank you for being our safe harbor and spiritual compass. We're forever grateful for you:

- Praying for us during our most difficult hours.
- Celebrating with us in times of gladness.
- Lending a helping hand in times of need.
- Walking with us when the journey of life was long.
- Purchasing and supporting our first book, "But God Said: A Mother and Son's Courageous Journey to a New Heart." Get your copy on Amazon

With love,  
Minister Liz, Deacon Markel, Marnier and Lauren

The logo for Crafting Sisters features a central red heart with a white cross inside. To the left is a sprig of green leaves and small pink flowers. To the right is a colorful butterfly. Below the heart, the text reads: "CONGRATULATIONS TWELFTH BAPTIST CHURCH ON YOUR 185<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY!"  
  
A pair of black-handled scissors is positioned on the left. The text "Crafting Sisters" is written in a large, elegant script. Below it, "CREATED TO CREATE" is in a smaller, bold, sans-serif font. The tagline "Sharing God's love through every handmade card and every crafted piece" is in a script font.  
  
A small red ribbon icon is on the left. The text "Minister Liz Crockton, Beverly Byron, Brenda Nobles and Glynnette Scott" is in a script font. Below it, "1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)" is in a smaller sans-serif font.  
  
The bottom of the card features a decorative border of green leaves and small pink flowers, with a yellow ribbon-like flourish on the left.

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on 185 years of  
faithful service  
and a legacy  
that continues to  
inspire.

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## IN MEMORY OF EDNA LITTLE

April 12, 1938 through October 24, 2024.

Born in Clark's Town, Jamaica

*In Loving Memory  
Remembering a beloved mother,  
grandmother, and faithful servant of God.*

*Her love for her children and  
grandchildren was only matched by her  
devotion to the church.*

*Her spirit lives on in the hearts of her  
family  
and in the legacy of faith she leaves behind.  
Forever missed, forever loved.*

## IN LOVING MEMORY

of

*Elizabeth Cooper  
From  
Jack and Willia Cooper  
and the Cooper Family*



Congratulation TBC on your 185 years

# GOLDEN GIRLS CELEBRATING TBC'S 185<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY



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## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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Rev. Rupert Solomon, Pastor





*Congratulations*  
to  
*Twelfth Baptist Church*  
*For 185 years of Service*

*Greater Framingham Community Church, 44 Franklin Road,  
Framingham, MA 01702, <https://www.gfccnet.org>  
Rev. Dr. J Anthony Lloyd, Pastor*

**IN MEMORY OF  
Sister Marlene Gibbs and  
Mother Beulah Gibbs**



**In Memory  
Sister Hazel M. Stevens**



*November 17, 1919 to August 28, 2020*

Sister Hazel Stevens has a lasting memory in my heart and my family's heart. The Biblical compassion that she showed me, and my beloved sister (Maxine Wiley) will be felt everlasting. I Praise God from whom all blessings flow, for truly Hazel Stevens was one of our Blessings.

## Congratulations to Twelfth Baptist Church on their 185th Anniversary



Hermine Williams Boyd



Halima Musa Hamilton



Hermine  
Hamilton



Anita  
Hamilton



Min. Barbara  
Hamilton



Marcella  
Roberts

Hermine Boyd first came to Twelfth Baptist Church through the union to her husband Eugene P. Boyd under the leadership of Rev. & Mrs. Hester. Through the ministry of Rev. Hester & Dr. Michael E. Haynes four generations of the family came into the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Numerous members of the family participated in the life & ministry of TBC. The family will be forever grateful for the seeds of faith sown into their lives.



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**May God continue to bless Twelfth Baptist Church  
and congratulations on your 185th Anniversary  
“The Henry Family”**



**First row- Camille Trench with Nala Trench,  
Abeba Henry, Donovan Henry**  
**Second row- Rohan Trench with Owen Trench, Brittany  
Love, Paula Henry**  
**Third row- Leslie Love III, Howard “Andrew” Henry**



**From left to right- Roman Trench (5 months), Owen  
Trench (4 years), Nala Trench ( 2 years), Delilah  
Love (2 months) and family dog Milo**

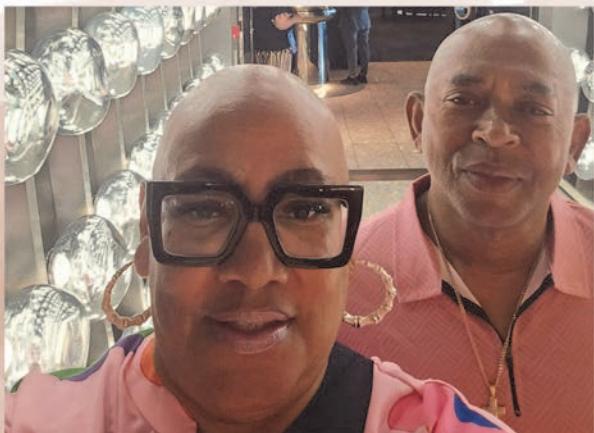
**“For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;  
his faithfulness continues through all generations”**  
Psalm 100:5

**CONGRATULATIONS on 185th**

Irving Keyes - Sharon Keyes - Sharlea Brookes-Keyes



**GRATEFUL THANKFUL & BLESSED!**



**Janyce Justice Murray & Thomas L. Murray**

**For the years of leadership  
of these mighty men of God!  
12 Rev. Dr. Michael E. Haynes  
13 Rev. Dr. Arthur T. Gerald, Jr.  
14 Rev. Dr. Willie Bodrick, II  
Minister to Children & Youth Rev. Bruce H. Wall**

*No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.*  
1 Corinthians 10:13

# Jovan J. Lacet - Boston Attorney, LLC



Boston Attorneys, LLC

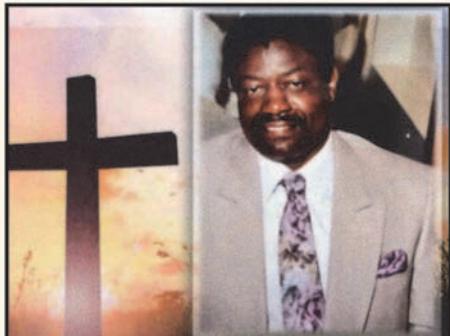
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*In Loving Memory of*  
**JOHN L. DAVIS**



#### THE FINAL FLIGHT

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free  
I'm following the path God laid for me  
I took His hand when I heard His call.  
I turned my back and left it all  
I could not stay another day  
To laugh, to love, to work, to play.  
Tasks left undone must stay that way  
I've found that peace  
at the end of the day.  
If my parting has left a void  
Then fill it with remembering joy.  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss  
Ah, yes, these things I too will miss.  
Be not burdened with times of sorrow  
My life's been full, I savored much  
Good friends, good times,  
a loved one's touch.  
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief  
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief  
Lift up your heart and share with me  
God wanted me now; He set me free.

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## Michele Vaughn-Bernardez

“Thank you to”  
The TBC Women's Fellowship

for all your support and prayers.  
I am truly thankful and grateful  
for the opportunity  
to service as your President.  
2023-2026



Happy 185th Anniversary TBC

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In Loving Memory of my Mother Lucille Ionie Bailey



# Mary L. Pam-Powell



**I** Mary L. Pam-Powell am proud to carry the Torch of Love, Faith in God & Community! Values that were passed down from my Grandparents, then continued through many years of dedicated service, reestablished by my mother, Mary B. Lomax-Pam. Through the valuable lessons, & guidance of those who came before me, & an unshakable Faith in God, I continue to keep the flame alive!

**I have overcome** many obstacles! Yet the resilience that is a part of who I am and whose I am, rings true! God First, a long line of believers, and now the Legacy continues!

**I was blessed** after hard work & faithfulness, to graduate in the Class of 2014, from Cambridge College with a master's degree in education, concentration Psychology and Substance Use Disorders, and I am a License Alcohol Drug Counselor (LADC1). I have been working in the field of mental health substance use disorders for over 27 years and have over 29 years of recovery. Due to the grace of God. And by God's grace I will continue to carry the torch, for generations to come!

# Happy 185th Anniversary Twelfth Baptist Church!



(The individuals pictured are, from left to right:)

Robin, Maurice Jr., Cecilia, Maurice IV, Marcus Emmitt, and Maurice III

## With Love and Blessings from the NOBLES

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• Safe, empowering space rooted in *respect, growth, and transformation*  
✉️ If interested, text LYFE and your name to (617) 652-02550



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George Richardson - Manager

# MEMORIAL - SISTER, MAXINE WILEY

## In Memory of Sister, Maxine Wiley

August 31, 1946 - August 30, 2012

Celebrated over 30 years of devoted membership at 12th Baptist Church, her unwavering faith, kindness, and loving spirit touched everyone she met. She will be deeply missed, but her legacy of love, faith, and service will live on in our hearts forever.

With love and gratitude,  
Her family and friends

*Her children arise and call her blessed, and “a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised” (Proverbs 31:28–30).*



### TBC INTERCESSORY PRAYER MINISTRY Happy 185th Anniversary!

We extend our sincere congratulations on this remarkable 185th Anniversary!

As we celebrate this significant milestone, we are profoundly grateful for the privilege of standing in the gap for our church family.

For 185 years, prayer has been the foundation and a living testament to God's faithfulness at TBC. We have seen firsthand how prayer has transformed lives, provided comfort in times of need, and witnessed healing miracles unfold, all while empowering our church to fulfill its divine purpose.

As we look to the future with great faith and anticipation, our prayer is that TBC will continue to be a house of prayer where God's presence is powerfully manifested. We pray that we, as a church, will rededicate ourselves to a life of prayer and watch as God does immeasurably more than we could ever ask or imagine.

We would be honored for you to join us as we pray for the next chapter of TBC's story.

- Mid-day Prayer: Monday - Saturday, 12:15p - 12:45p
- Early Morning Prayer: Thursdays, 6:00a - 7:00a
- Hour of Power: Every Friday, 7:00p - 8:00p

You can find the Zoom links and call-in numbers on our website to join us. We look forward to praying with you!

With Gratitude and in His Grace,  
The TBC Prayer Ministry Team

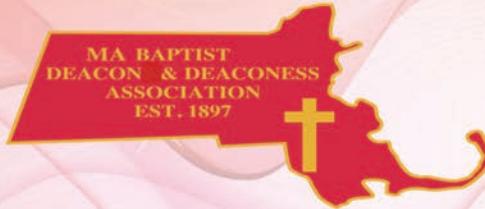
### QUEEN LADY PJ

#### Celebrates TBC'S 185<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary



## CONGRATULATES

### Twelfth Baptist Church on Their 185<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



Deacon Robert Howard  
Deaconess Stacey' Tate  
Deacon Jimme Thomas  
Deacon warren Montgomery  
Deacon Charley Carter  
Deaconess Latanya Turner  
Deacon Ferna Phillips

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*"For The Lord is Good; His Mercy' is Everlasting and his truth endures to all generations."*  
Psalms 100:5

## **Built to Last**

To our TBC Family,

Congratulations on 185 years of being a beacon of hope, light and love to members, the community and beyond. May God continue to bless you.

Love,

Frances Lawson

Rachel & William Gray

Segun & Ademola Idowu

*"Upon this rock I will build my church"*  
Matthew 16:18

## *In Loving Memory of Parents*

**Robert L. Jr. & Leoutrah V. Tabb**



*In Honor of the Tabb Family*

## IN MEMORY OF SARAH E. THOMAS

January 15, 1905 - November 15, 2000

from daughters  
Phoebelyn Reid & Kathrina Caiby  
and family



*Mom your life was a blessing your memory we will always treasure. You are loved beyond words, and we miss you beyond measure. You will always be on our thoughts and forever in our hearts.*

Psalm 23: The Lord is my Shepherd



## BABSON COLLEGE

Congratulations Twelfth Baptist Church! On behalf of Babson College and the Office of Inclusive Excellence, we extend heartfelt congratulations to Twelfth Baptist Church on its 220th Anniversary. Your enduring legacy of faith, justice, and community empowerment is a beacon of hope and a model of resilience. May your ministry continue to inspire generations with love, light, leadership, and liberation.

Dr. Sadie Burton-Goss  
Chief Inclusive Excellence Officer  
Babson College



## MEMORIAL - SISTER, MILDRED COLMES

### In Memory of Sister, Mildred Colmes

October 16, 1920 - April 13, 2021

Celebrated over 30 years of devoted membership at 12th Baptist Church, her unwavering faith, kindness, and loving spirit touched everyone she met. She will be deeply missed, but her legacy of love, faith, and service will live on in our hearts forever.

With love and gratitude,  
Her family and friends

*Her children arise and call her blessed, and "a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised" (Proverbs 31:28-30).*



**CONGRATULATIONS 12 BAPTIST CHURCH FOR 185 YEARS  
OF BEING A BEACON OF LIGHT AND SUPPORT TO THE COMMUNITY.  
THE MORENCYS**



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AS THEY  
celebrate 220 Years of History**

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Monday for a fun fill experience  
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circumvent isolation.  
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**May this Anniversary  
bring a season of  
renewed spiritual strength  
and growth to  
Twelfth Baptist Church  
and all its members!**



**With Appreciation,  
Stacey Isles-Brako & Frank Brako, Jr.**

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### 🌐 TBC Zoomers Invite You! 🌐

#### **Scripture**

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." —Hebrews 10.24-25 NIV

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VINCENT LAKE  
FERN GAINES



**Congratulations!**  
**Twelfth Baptist Church**

THANK YOU FOR BEING A ROCK IN OUR  
COMMUNITY FOR 185 YEARS!

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COMMUNITY!!

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QSR CODE FOR EMPLOYMENT!



**Nutter**

Congratulations to Twelfth Baptist  
Church on 220 years of faith,  
community, and impact.

Nutter is proud to support and  
celebrate your enduring legacy.



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**VISIONS**  
**IN**  
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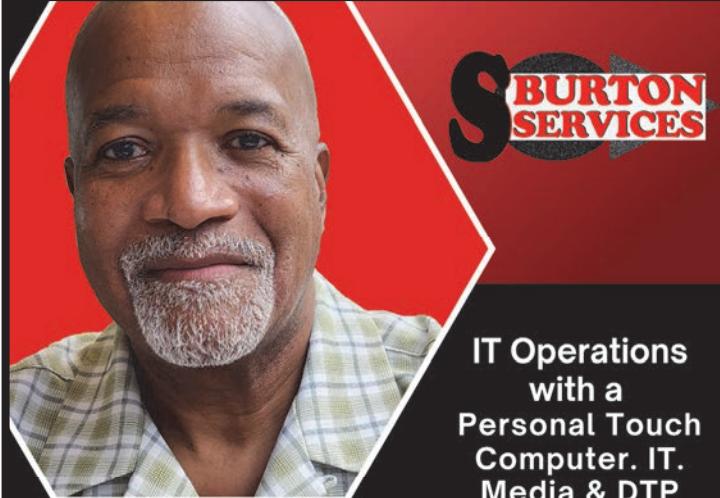
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Blessings TBC on your 185<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



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## Twelfth Baptist Church HAPPY 185th !!!

You have been a Blessing to the Simpson Family for decades ...,  
May you continue to be a Blessing for ALL who continue to walk through YOUR doors.



Darryl Christopher, II - Leigh - Charlotte - Parker & Darryl (Coach) Simpson

## RONALD & CHARLENE CARROLL

Congratulates  
Twelfth Baptist Church

On 185 years

We are grateful for  
their service  
to the community.



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**Warren Street, Roxbury  
(1957-Present)**



# TWELFTH BAPTIST CHURCH

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**LITERARY FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY**

WWW.TBCBOSTON.ORG



**TWELFTH**  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
Boston, MA | Org. 1805 | Est. 1840

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## LITERARY FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

Established July 28, 2022

First LFM gathering March 18, 2023

With Special Thanks to Rev. Dr. Willie Bodrick, II, Senior Pastor  
Linda B. Cabral Ed.D. and Sis. Violet A. Britton, Facilitators

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# A MINISTRY ROOTED IN LOVE AND LITERATURE

## ○ INTRODUCTION

The **Literary Fellowship Ministry** (LFM) of Twelfth Baptist Church was established as a space of Christian love, fellowship, and intellectual engagement. Rooted in the church's rich tradition of service, community, and faith, the ministry embraces literature as both a spiritual and cultural tool that deepens our understanding of ourselves and one another. Through thoughtful dialogue, shared learning, and Christ-centered fellowship, LFM invites members and friends to come together in a spirit of openness and joy. Our mission is grounded in the biblical call to love—patiently, kindly, and without judgment—creating a safe and affirming community where every voice is valued and every perspective is honored.



LFM | TBC 185 ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

# ABOUT THE LITERARY FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

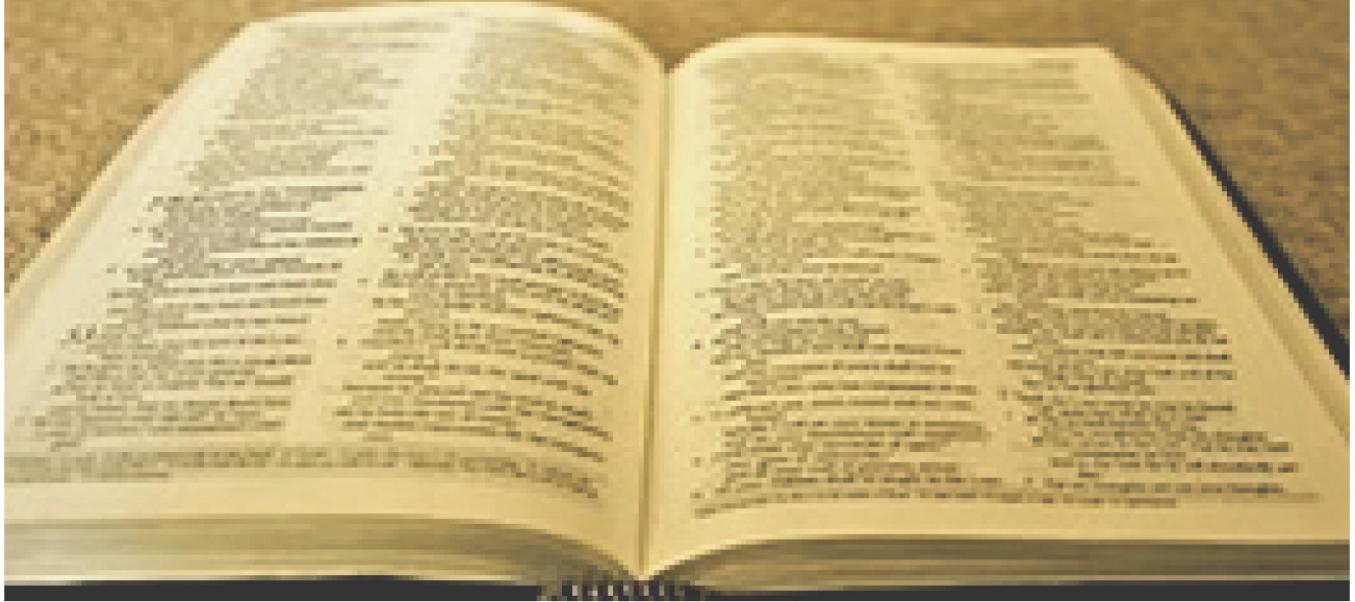
## OUR STORY & PURPOSE

### We Are a Fellowship of Readers and Believers



The mission of the **Literary Fellowship Ministry** is three-fold: (1) to engage, encourage, and support one another through the discussion and exploration of diverse works of literature; (2) to model patience, kindness, and love when differing viewpoints arise; and (3) to provide a safe and welcoming space where all are accepted and embraced. Guided by 1 Corinthians 13, we believe that love is at the center of our work and our fellowship. Our vision is simple yet profound: that each gathering will leave participants feeling seen, heard, and uplifted—with a renewed eagerness to return and continue the journey together. (See Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, left, greeting a TBC member.)

Beyond quarterly book discussions, LFM actively contributes to the life of Twelfth Baptist Church through service and ministry. Members regularly support Friday evening prayer services and prepare meals for TBC seniors, extending fellowship beyond the page and into the life of our congregation.



"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." Ephesians 4:32 ESV

# ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

## The 1800's ↗

As part of TBC's 185th Anniversary Celebration, LFM has also curated a collection of books, articles, and resources that highlight the history, leadership, and activism of Twelfth Baptist Church throughout the 1800s. This annotated bibliography and online resource list is both a tribute to our legacy and an invitation for others to discover, learn, and celebrate our story. We welcome all who delight in literature, film, and lively conversation to join us as we continue to grow together in faith, fellowship, and love.

# TBC FEATURED AUTHORS

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## ***But God Said...A Mother and Son's Courageous Journey to a New Heart***

Authored by Markel Crockton and Elizabeth Crockton

---

# FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH: AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF TWELFTH BAPTIST CHURCH IN THE 1800s

---

Bearse, Austin. *Reminiscences of Fugitive-Slave Law Days in Boston:*  
Printed by W. Richardson, 1880.<sup>1</sup>

Collision, Gary Lee. *Shadrach Minkins: From Fugitive Slave to Citizen.*  
Harvard University Press, 1998.<sup>2</sup>

Craft, William. *Running a Thousand Miles for Freedom: The Escape of  
William and Ellen Craft from Slavery.* William Tweedie, London,  
England, 1860.<sup>3</sup>

Crumpler, Rebecca. *A Book of Medical Discourses: In Two Parts.*  
Forgotten Books, 2018.<sup>4</sup>

Hayden, Lewis. *Caste among Masons: Address before Prince Hall Grand  
Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Massachusetts,  
at the Festival of St. John the Evangelist.* Edward S. Coombs & Co.  
Boston, 1866.<sup>5</sup>

Hayden, Lewis. *Masonry among Colored Men in Massachusetts, to the  
Right Worshipful J.G. Findel, Honorary Grand Master of the Prince  
Hall Grand Lodge, and General Representatives to the Lodges upon  
the continent of Europe.* Lewis Hayden, 1871.<sup>6</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Describes the resistance of many Bostonians to the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850 in Boston, Massachusetts.

<sup>2</sup> Minkins's time in Boston is covered in Chapters 4-10, pp. 61-165, and the Twelfth Baptist Church is mentioned on pp. 70, 73, 128, and 204. Under the leadership of Reverend Leonard Grimes, the church was known as the "Church of the Fugitive Slaves" because of the number of escaped enslaved people among the congregation.

<sup>3</sup> William Craft's autobiographical account describes how he and his wife, Ellen, courageously escaped slavery through bravery, ingenuity, and creativity. While in Boston, they stayed at the boarding house managed by Harriet and Lewis Hayden until they found other living arrangements.

<sup>4</sup> This book was originally published by Cashman, Keating & Co., Printers in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1883. The first section primarily discusses health priorities for women and infants. The second section offers medical remedies for both women and men.

<sup>5</sup> In 1866, while serving as the Grand Master of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Lewis Hayden spoke about racism within the Freemasonry Society and emphasized the importance of maintaining the Prince Hall Grand Lodge for Black men.

<sup>6</sup> Lewis Hayden's letter addressed to J.G. Findel concerns the masonic progress of Black men following slavery.

# FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH: AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF TWELFTH BAPTIST CHURCH IN THE 1800s

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Hester, William Hunter. *History of Twelfth Baptist Church 1840 – 1945. Corner of Madison Street and Shawmut Avenue. Boston, Massachusetts.* Copyright 1946 by Twelfth Baptist Church.<sup>7</sup>

Nell, William C., and an introduction by Harriet Beecher Stowe. *A Book of the Times, Colored Patriots of the American Revolution.* Robert F. Walcutt, 1855.<sup>8</sup>

Nell, William Cooper. *Selected Writings 1832 – 1874.* Edited by Constance Porter Uzelac and Dorothy Porter Wesley. Black Classic Press, 2002.<sup>9</sup>

Randolph, Rev. Peter. *Sketches in the slave life: or Illustrations of the Peculiar Institution.* 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Published by the author, 1855.<sup>10</sup>

Randolph, Peter. *Sketches of Slave Life: from Slave Cabin to the Pulpit.* James H. Earle, 1893.<sup>11</sup>

Rantoul, Robert. *Trial of Thomas Sims on an Issue of Personal Liberty: On the Claim of James Potter of Georgia against him, as an alleged fugitive from slavery.* Forgotten Books, 2022.<sup>12</sup>

Sernett, Milton C., editor. *African American religious history: A documentary witness.* Duke University Press, 1999.<sup>13</sup>

---

<sup>7</sup> Rev. Hester chronicles the history of Twelfth Baptist Church from 1840 to 1945, including the church organization, the fugitive slave law, and the importance of the church's educational components, especially for youth.

<sup>8</sup> A detailed account of the Black men who served in the Revolutionary War, including their state of origin and their status during the war.

<sup>9</sup> A biography that uses William Cooper Nell's letters, articles, and writings to showcase his dedication and passion for fighting for equal citizenship rights for Black Americans.

<sup>10</sup> The autobiography starts with Peter Randolph's childhood and concludes with him heading north with a group from the plantation.

<sup>11</sup> Peter Randolph's journey continues northward, where he becomes one of the original members of the Twelfth Baptist Church.

<sup>12</sup> Researchers examine the official trial transcript of Thomas Sims's case, from 1851, along with the writings by his attorney, Robert Rantoul, to tell Sims's story under the Fugitive Slave Law.

<sup>13</sup> Although the Twelfth Baptist Church was not explicitly named, it played a significant role in aiding enslaved people and was closely connected to leading abolitionists mentioned in the book.

# FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH: AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF TWELFTH BAPTIST CHURCH IN THE 1800s

Von Frank, Albert J. *Trials of Anthony Burns: Freedom and slavery in Emerson's Boston*. Harvard University Press, 1998.<sup>14</sup>

William, George W. *History of Twelfth Baptist Church, Boston, Mass., from 1840 to 1847: With A Statement and Appeal on Behalf of the Church by Twelfth Baptist Church*. James H. Earle, 1874.<sup>15</sup>

Woods, Jr., Naurice Frank, George Dimock wrote the foreword. *Race and racism in Nineteenth-Century Art: The ascendancy of Robert Duncanson, Edward Bannister, and Edmonia Lewis*. University Press of Mississippi, 2021.<sup>16</sup>

Woodson, Carter Goodwin. *The History of the Negro Church*. Associated Publishers, Washington, D.C., 1921.<sup>17</sup>



<sup>14</sup> Both Reverend Leonard Grimes and Lewis Hayden from Twelfth Baptist Church were involved with Anthony Burns following his capture under the Fugitive Slave Law.

<sup>15</sup> The Twelfth Baptist Church was officially established in 1840, and Reverend Leonard Grimes was ordained in 1848. Twelfth Baptist Church became a sanctuary for enslaved people seeking freedom.

<sup>16</sup> It offers a detailed view of how artists like Duncanson, Bannister, and Lewis navigated a society deeply filled with prejudice to build successful careers and establish enduring artistic legacies.

<sup>17</sup> Biographies of ministers and a comprehensive index highlight the growth of the Black church from the South to Canada.

# BEYOND THE PAGE

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## ○ ONLINE RESOURCES

### **Site of Twelfth Baptist Church or the Fugitive Slaves Church**

[www.nps.gov/places/twelfth-baptist-church.htm](http://www.nps.gov/places/twelfth-baptist-church.htm)



"Church of the Fugitive Slaves in Boston" (Credit: Anthony Burns: A History by Charles E. Stevens, 1856.)

### **Black Churches of Beacon Hill**

[www.nps.gov/articles/000/black-churches-of-beacon-hill.htm](http://www.nps.gov/articles/000/black-churches-of-beacon-hill.htm)



The African Meeting House, home to the First African Baptist Church, on Smith Court. Massachusetts Historical Society

### **Leonard Grimes**

<https://www.nps.gov/people/leonard-grimes.htm>



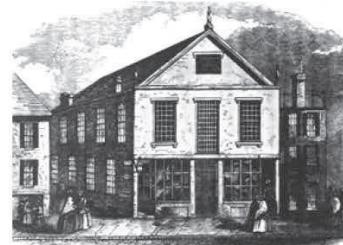
Portrait of Reverend Leonard Grimes, minister of Twelfth Baptist Church in Boston. Library of Congress

# BEYOND THE PAGE

## ○ ONLINE RESOURCES

**Harriet Tubman's Boston: 1862. Church of the Fugitive Slaves in Boston. Twelfth Baptist Church, Southac (Phillips) Street**

[www.nps.gov/articles/000/htubman-boston-1862.htm](http://www.nps.gov/articles/000/htubman-boston-1862.htm)



"Church of the Fugitive Slaves in Boston" (Credit: Anthony Burns: A History by Charles E. Stevens, 1856.)

**Robert Johnson House. Deacon at Twelfth Baptist Church**

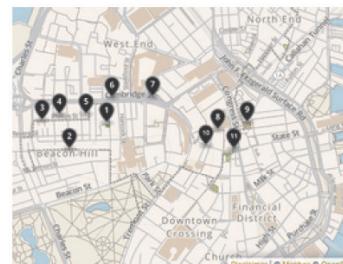
[www.nps.gov/articles/000/black-churches-of-beacon-hill.htm](http://www.nps.gov/articles/000/black-churches-of-beacon-hill.htm)



The historic home of Robert Johnson at 69 Joy Street (formerly 16 Belknap Street). NPS Photo/Benstead

**The Underground Railroad in Boston Audio Tour from Smith Court, Beacon Hill to Long Wharf, Boston**

<http://www.nps.gov/boaf/learn/uggr-bost-audio-tour.htm>



# BEYOND THE PAGE

## ○ ONLINE RESOURCES

### **Arianna Sparrow's House. Beacon Hill/West End neighborhoods. Massachusetts Woman's Suffrage Association (MWSA).**

*Arianna Sparrow held meetings at Twelfth Baptist Church, helped organize the West End Women's Suffrage League and a chapter of the MWSA composed mostly of leaders in the Black community.*

[www.nps.gov/places/arianna-sparrow-house.htm](http://www.nps.gov/places/arianna-sparrow-house.htm)



"Church of the Fugitive Slaves in Boston" (Credit: Anthony Burns: A History by Charles E. Stevens, 1856.)

### **"God made me a man-not a slave". The Arrest of Anthony Burns.**

*Burns worshipped at Twelfth Baptist Church under the leadership of Reverend Leonard Grimes.*

[www.nps.gov/articles/000/black-churches-of-beacon-hill.htm](http://www.nps.gov/articles/000/black-churches-of-beacon-hill.htm)



c. 1855 cartoon with a portrait of Anthony Burns and scenes of his life around him. (Credit: Library of Congress)

### **William Cooper Nell: Smith Court Leader.**

*Influential and respected community leader and activist.*

[www.nps.gov/places/arianna-sparrow-house.htm](http://www.nps.gov/places/arianna-sparrow-house.htm)



Portrait of William Cooper Nell  
Massachusetts Historical Society

# BEYOND THE PAGE

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## ○ ONLINE RESOURCES



The African Meeting House  
Museum of African American History Photo

**Museum of African American History. The African Meeting House (1806) the oldest extant Black church building in the nation. The Abiel Smith School (1835). Black Heritage Trail.**

<https://www.maah.org/>



**Home for the Aged Colored Women**

*Members in predominantly Black churches in the neighborhood such as Twelfth Baptist Church, the First African Baptist Church (now the African Meeting House), A.M.E. Church or Charles Street were residents of HAACW.*

[www.nps.gov/articles/000/black-churches-of-beacon-hill.htm](http://www.nps.gov/articles/000/black-churches-of-beacon-hill.htm)

# LITERARY FELLOWSHIP READING LIST

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The LFM of Twelfth Baptist Church meets quarterly. Literature from various genres is discussed in fellowship with many who enjoy a good book or film, relish lively discussions that values similar and opposing viewpoints and delights in engaging with the authors. Following are the selections from 2023 to the present.

---

↗  
“The Personal Librarian” by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. Berkley. 2021.

---

↗  
“The Violin Conspiracy” by Brendan Slocumb. Vintage, 2022.

---

↗  
“But God Said: A Mother and Son’s Courageous Journey to a New Heart” by Markel Crockton and Liz Crockton. STePH Publishing, LLC, Waldorf, MD, 2022.

---

↗  
“Going Back to T-Town: The Ernie Fields Territory Big Band” by Carmen Fields. University of Oklahoma Press, 2023.

---

↗  
“My Name is Ona Judge” by Suzette D. Harrison. Bookoutre, 2022.

---

↗  
“That bird has my wings” by Jarvis Jay Masters. Harper One, 2010.

---

# LITERARY FELLOWSHIP READING LIST

↗  
"What is My Legacy: Realizing a New Dream of Connection, Love and Fulfillment" by Martin Luther King III, Arndrea Waters King, Marc Kielburger and Craig Kielburger. Flashpoint Books, Seattle, 2025.

↗  
"Caste: The Origins of our Discontents" by Isabel Wilkerson. Random House, 2023. Part One: December 2024; Part Two: March 16, 2025.

↗  
"Lovely One" by Ketanji Brown Jackson. Random House, New York, 2024.

↗  
"Origin" (film). IMDb 2023.



# STAY CONNECTED WITH LFM

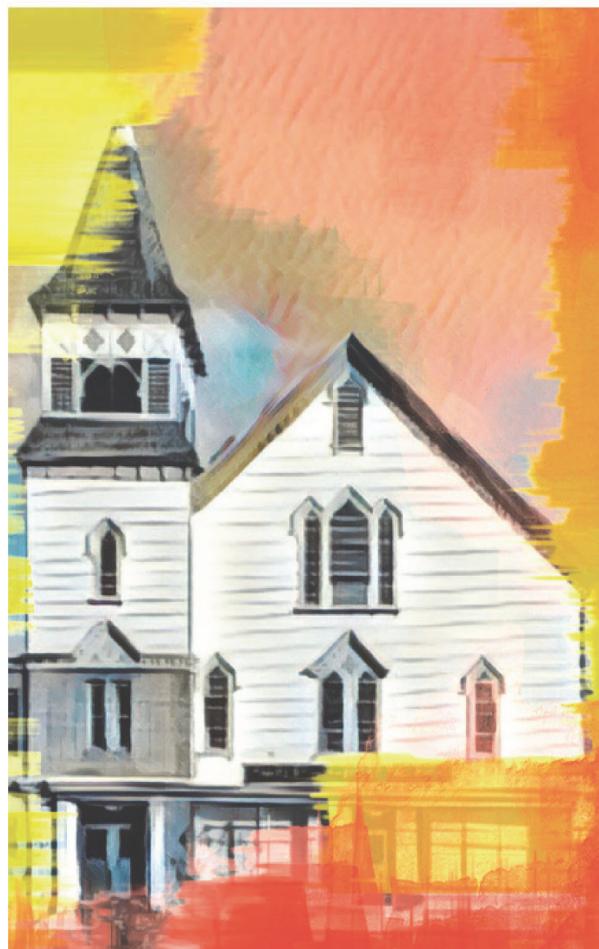
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JOIN THE CONVERSATION, SHARE IN FELLOWSHIP, AND DISCOVER  
WHAT'S NEXT WITH OUR MINISTRY.



The Literary Fellowship Ministry (LFM) welcomes all who delight in reading, thoughtful discussion, and Christian fellowship. Whether you are a longtime member of Twelfth Baptist Church or someone newly exploring our community, we invite you to be part of a ministry where love and literature intersect. We look forward to welcoming you into our fellowship and sharing in the joy of learning, growing, and loving together.

**For more about the LFM or details contained herein, please get in touch with TBC Central Office**



# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS & THANK YOU

---



We give thanks to all who made this year's Literary Fellowship Ministry Booklet possible.

To Marcella Dix Brown, for opening her library and her heart — your generosity has enriched our minds and spirits.

To Lisa Dix, for her stunning artwork of Twelfth Baptist Church, a timeless reflection of our faith, history, and home.

To Winston Bodrick, for your artistry and design that gave our words a beautiful home.

To Denise Burton, for the warmth and light you captured through your photography.

To our LFM community, thank you for showing up with faith, reflection, and creativity.

And to our Pastor, Rev. Dr. Willie Bodrick, II, and the Twelfth Baptist Church family, your support and prayers sustain this ministry — you are the reason our stories continue to be told.

With love and gratitude,

**Literary Fellowship Ministry**  
*Twelfth Baptist Church*

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Garon Barrow & Family  
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Sherman and Ingrid Batholomew & Family  
Mrs. Martha Beacon & Family  
Clarence, Clara, Cassaundra & Dwayne. Bell Job 5:8  
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Brian, Kyle & Michelle Chapman  
Mary and Tommie Campbell  
Adonica, Myelitta, James & Robin Chaplain  
Adonica Grandchildren- Brian, Kyle & Michelle  
From the Colas family with Love  
Charles & Carolyn Coleman and Family  
R. Nobles in memory of Betty Cook Hines  
Norris and Eveline Cornish  
Sherrie Cox  
Denisha Crawley-Bell & Family  
In memory of Franciscia Henry We love you  
Min. Liz Crockton & Family

Lauren Christina Crockton  
Deacon Markel Crockton  
Marnier Paris Crockton  
Lillie A. Davis  
In Loving memory of Savilla R. Harden  
Linda P. Davis  
Taronna R. Davis  
The Dawson Family  
Angela Dixon & Family  
Dennis Dixon  
Lenny and Marva Cox "Congratulations TBC"  
Jonathan R. Dukes  
Lecca & William Kyie & Family  
Trevor, Evelyn, Jaiden & Tyler  
Thomas & Juarez Farrington  
Christine Francis & Family  
Marque & Felicia Fraser & Family  
Wanda Gaines "Congratulations on 185"  
Isiah Thomas Gibbs  
Noah Alexander Gibbs  
Nyla Z. Gibbs  
Poloma Ysabel Gibbs  
Kenneth O. Gibbs Jr. III  
Kenneth O. Gibbs, Sr.  
Bruce Gonsalves & Family  
Beryl J. Greaves  
Mr. & Mrs. Barry Green & Family  
Fannie Greene  
Rev. Ronel W. & Mrs. Ernestine Gunn  
The Hardaway Family "Congratulations"  
Alfreda Harris & Family  
Shelbourne Community Center  
Tammy L. Hill and Family  
In loving memory of James Boyd, Essie Hiil-Boyd  
Delsie Hodgson  
Gritchon Hodgson & Family  
Ruby and James Hudson  
Justin Reid and Katlyn Hurst  
Tyesha N. Isom

# PATRONS

"In Loving memory of Fred Jackson"  
Naomi Jackson

Doris Johnson & Family

Kim Johnson Cheek

In memory of  
Willie D. & Saiya Kai Johnson

Clara Jones & Family

Florence L. Jones

In memory of my beloved husband,  
Arnold G. Jones

In Memory of Grandparents  
Edward & Mammie Jones

Sharon Keyes

Wilma A. Knight

Sonia Lawrence & Family

Wilhelmina Lewis

The Locker Family "Blessings"

In Memory of  
Miriam Chase & Sharon Manning

Dorrit Marshall & Family

Mildred Mathews and Family

Mr. & Mrs. A. Maund Family

Dr. Kerry Lynn & Andre Moore

Trevor Mulcare

Deborah Mullins & Family

Brenda Jean Nobles "1 Corinthians 13:13"

Mr. & Mrs. Henry & Zina Nord

In Memory of Miriam Chase &  
Sharon Manning, Loretta Paulding

In loving memory of  
Lillie Bass, Flossie Pearson & Family

Veronica R. Penn

James and Ethel Pinckney

Elizabeth Price & Family

In Memory of The Prevoe Family

Julia, Camille & Julius Reid

Phoebelyn H. Reid & Colin Reid Jr.

Charles & Hansella Robson & Family

Dr. Cierra Belize Robson

Elijah Benjamin Robson

In memory of Albert Rogers

David E. Ryan

Annette Sailsman & Family

Earlene Salley

Janice Sargent

Haschel & Florence Sealy & Family

Glenda Sims & Family "Congrats TBC on 185 years!"

In Memory of Gerald & Jacqueline Singleton

In Memory of Pamela Singleton & Renita Brodie  
Lisa Singleton

Craig Small

In loving memory of the eternal family of  
James & Sarah E Small

Charles P. Smith

Mrs. Shirley Downie Smith

Sierra Joi Smither

Ernest & Shelby Smither Family

Ernest John Smither IV

The Spratling Family

In loving memory of Stewart/Holbert Family

In Memory & Honor of the Tabb Family

In Memory and Honor of loved ones

The Charles Thomas Family, PA

The Kevin Thomas Family, CA

In loving Memory of  
Algernon & Helen Thomas

Sean & Nadia Thomas & Family

In loving memory of Edward A. Thompson

Deaconess Donna Vass & Family "CONGRATS!"

In Memory of Mother Bessie Lee Anderson-Wiggins

Denise Williams & Family

Eslyn Williams & Family

Debra Barnes Wilson

Alma Wright

60 years as an active member of TBC

James Wright

Renee Bigaud-Young

# DRONE PHOTO

by Dante Luna Jaronzie



## TWELFTH BAPTIST CHURCH

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Rev. Dr. Willie Bodrick, II - Senior Pastor

Rev. Jeffrey L. Brown - Associate Pastor

Rev. Dr. Arthur T. Gerald, Jr. - Pastor Emeritus



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